Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-014 *22 January 1990*

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Anguilla

Governor Assumes International Financial Duties

FL2001185990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1740 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The Valley, Anguilla, Jan 20, CANA--In a replay of developments in Montserrat, the British governor in Anguilla is taking over responsibility for international financial affairs.

The move was announced here by the governor's office after constitutional talks in London between officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a delegation from the Anguilla House of Assembly, headed by Chief Minister Emile Gumbs. International financial services will become a special responsibility of the governor and the governor will have power to delegate any of his special responsibilities to ministers, the office reported.

Only recently, Britain announced it was amending the Montserrat Constitution, transferring responsibility for offshore banking from the elected government to the governor in view of a probe that turned up a number of malpractises in the industry.

The governor's office said there had been a frank exchange of views in London on proposed constitution. [sentence as received] The January 17-19 talks were between teams led by Robin Gorham, head of the West Indian and Atlantic Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Gumbs. Hubert Hughes, a minister of parliament, and Attorney General Alan Hoole were members of the Anguilla team. The british governor on the island, Brian G.J. Canty, also attended the meetings.

The Anguilla delegation is expected to return home Sunday.

Haiti

Government Spokeswoman Discusses Avril Trip

FL1901133390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] President Avril's trip to Taiwan has opened up important prospects for economic cooperation, according to [Judith] Brossard, National Haitian Television's director of information, who was interviewed by reporter Rothschild.

[Rothschild] President Avril's trip to [the Republic of] China was not useless. On the contrary, it opened up promising prospects for Haiti.

This is more or less what government spokeswoman Judith Brossard told Tele-Haiti [private television station] and us regarding President Avril's trip to China.

Brossard, who was a member of the delegation that went to Taiwan, confirmed to us that the president did not bring back one red cent from this trip. Mrs. Brossard considers, however, the joint communique for cooperation in the agricultural, technical, and cultural spheres signed by the two governments to be extremely positive. Brossard stressed that the reinforcement of Sino-Haitian relations achieved by this trip will be made concrete by the arrival soon in Haiti of a mixed commission from Taiwan. The commission will be coming here to negotiate possible agreements with Port-au-Prince.

Judith Brossard explains that the welcome given General Prosper Avril in China has raised our country's image.

[Begin Brossard recording, in Creole] [Words indistinct] trip to China was the joint communique, which opens the door to the signing of all these agreements that are going to be signed. The trip was only 4 days long. Thus, no agreement could be signed in such a short time, especially since the delegation's schedule was very, very full [words indistinct], as we were saying. To sign an agreement, one has to sit down, discuss things, get together on things, and so forth. That is why as a conclusion to the joint communique there are these agreements that are going to be signed. [sentence as heard] That mixed commission is, however, going to meet here in Port-au-Prince. [words indistinct] and it is in that sense that President Avril said he had obtained what he had sought. That means that he found the Chinese president willing to cooperate with and help the Haitian Government. Chinese President Li Teng-hui said this in several speeches. [end recording]

[Rothschild] How much did this trip cost the public treasury? This question, which has not yet been answered, was much publicized by the National Assembly, which spoke out in vain against Gen. Avril's returning to the country. [passage omitted]

Government spokeswoman Brossard was unable to tell us how much money was spent on this trip. She says: Be reassured. Most of the bill was footed by the Chinese Government.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [passage omitted] How much of the money spent did the Haitian Government provide?

[Brossard, in Creole] Well, I think that those traveling are supposed to be responsible for certain expenses, but I think they were limited to a minimum.

[Reporter] How much was this minimum?

[Brossard, in Creole] Well, I do not know. It might vary from person to person, but....[pause, switches to French] I think.... [pause] I (?can't) answer that question. [end recording]

[Rothschild] Asked about the anti-Avril demonstrations at the Miami airport, Brossard explained once again that the president of the military government was not physically attacked in Miami. Nevertheless, she admitted that

a small (?seven)-person group had shouted slogans hostile to the Avril government in a part of the airport normally reserved for passengers. [passage omitted]

In short, as far as government spokeswoman Brossard is concerned, President Avril's visit to his Taiwanese friends will have been very beneficial for Haiti. She feels the money spent on this trip has not been wasted.

[Announcer] Thank you, Rothschild.

Opposition Leaders Detained, 'Severely Beaten'

PA2001235990 Paris AFP in Spanish 2253 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan—Five opposition leaders and another four reliable sources. [sentence as received]

Serge Gilles, leader of the (socialist) Revolutionary Progressive Nationalist Party [PANPRA], and three other persons who were in his home with him were arrested and severely beaten by armed men in civilian dress.

According to Radio Antilles, the other arrested opposition leaders are: Hubert de Ronceray, president of the centrist Mobilization for National Development; Louis E. Roy, one of the leaders of the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution; Sylvain Jolibois, leader of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector, a small opposition group; and Jefner Prudent, coordinator of the centrist Movement for the Installation of Democracy in Haiti.

Michel Legros, who several years ago was a member of the League for the Installation of Democracy, a small party, as well as Philippe Stevenson, a member of PANPRA, and two other unidentified persons, were also arrested.

State of Siege Decreed After Killing of Colonel

PA2101010990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0023 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan (EFE)—Haitian President General Prosper Avril today decreed a 30-day state of siege throughout the country after a colonel, his wife, and two companions were killed yesterday, Haitian television has reported.

According to the privately owned Radio Antilles, six members of the opposition were detained after Colonel Andre Neptuze and his companions were assassinated last night when they were about to get into their car at the officer's residence.

Half an hour after the assassinations the residential neighborhood of Fontamara, in the southwest area of the capital where the killings took place, was cordoned off by troops of the presidential guard who fired their weapons for 1 hour.

A number of soldiers opened fire on the residence of Hubert de Roncerey, the leader of the centrist Mobilization for National Development party, who was detained. Louis Roy, founder of the local Red Cross, was also detained, according to Radio Antilles.

Authorities Release Opposition Leaders

PA2101041390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0336 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan (AFP)—Socialist leader Seige Gilles of the Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party [PANPRA], who was detained today in Port-au-Prince with a dozen other political leaders, was released tonight by the authorities, who "apologized," his associates have reported.

Three other PANPRA members, who had been detained with Gilles—the four were severely beaten at the time of their detention—were also released, as were two members of the Movement for the Installation of Democracy [MIDH] and three members of other political organizations.

Still detained are Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN], and Louis Roy, responsible for the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution.

The detentions occurred shortly before General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, decreed a state of siege throughout Haiti, invoking the need to "protect democratic achievements."

PUCH's Bourjolly Reportedly Arrested

PA2101153590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1436 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Jan 9AFP)—Max Bourjolly, the number two man in the opposition United Party of Haiti Communists (PUCH), was arrested at his home this morning by law enforcement forces, a reliable source told AFP.

However, PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore was at his home and was able to talk to AFP.

A total of 15 political leaders were arrested yesterday after General Prosper Avril's military government proclaimed a state of siege. However, Most of them were released several hours later.

Government Expels Opposition's De Ronceray

PA2101154390 Paris AFP in Spanish 1445 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Jan (AFP)—Hubert de Ronceray, the leader of Haiti's centrist Mobilization For National Development (MND), arrested 20 January in Port-au-Prince shortly before the state of siege was declared, was expelled to Miami, sources close to De Ronceray reported.

The police arrested De Ronceray, along with 15 other opposition political leaders, most of whom were released a few hours later. De Ronceray belongs to the National

Reunion Movement [Movimiento Reunion Nacional], a 15-party coalition that during last week's official visit to Taiwan by General Prosper Avril, president of the Haitian military regime, asked the General Staff to dismiss Avril, accusing him of "manipulating future elections to remain in power."

Louis Roy, head of the Organization of the Defense of the Constitution, is reportedly going to be expelled also. He was arrested before the state of siege was declared. On 20 January Gen. Avril ordered a 30-day state of siege throughout the country "to protect democratic achievements," according to the official decree.

Opposition Leader Roy Expelled to U.S.

PA2101193990 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Jan (AFP)—Louis Roy, who is the head of the Organization of the Defense of the Constitution and one of the principal opposition figures here, was expelled to the United States today, a source close to his family has reported.

Roy kissed the ground at the airport twice before boarding the regular flight that would take him to Miami, according to the same source.

Roy is the second opposition figure to be expelled from the country, after the military government of General Prosper Avril proclaimed a state of seige on the night of 20 January, suspended all constitutional guarantees, and reestablished the right to expel nationals, which the 1987 constitution had abolished.

Hubert de Ronceray, president of the centrist Mobilization for National Development (MDN), was expelled by military authorities to Miami on the night of 20 January.

The government arrested several opposition leaders on 20 January. Most of them were released several hours later. This came in the wake of the killing of a colonel of the presidential guard, which is Avril's main source of support, on the night of 19 January.

Communist Leader Bourjolly Expelled

PA2201001390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2329 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Port-Au-Prince, 21 Jan (AFP)—A reliable source has reported that Max Bourjolly, second in command of the United Party of Haitian Communists (PUCH), was expelled from Haiti today by the military authorities.

Bourjolly was placed on an airplane en route to Paris via the island of Guadeloupe. He is the third opposition figure expelled by General Prosper Avril's military government since a state of siege was implemented throughout the country on 20 January.

Also subject to this measure were Hubert de Ronceray, president of the Mobilization for National Development Party (MDN, centrist), and Louis Roy, leader of the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution.

According to information obtained by AFP, which has not been officially confirmed, at least four other opposition leaders are still under arrest and may also be expelled from the country.

The leaders in question are Sylvan Jolibois (Nationalist Jean-Jacques Dessalines sector), Gerard-Emile "Abi" Brun, a member of the KONAKOM (Committee of Democratic and Social Democratic Movements), Michel Legros (League for the Installation of Democracy), and Max Montreuil (Cap Haitien Neighborhood Committee).

De Ronceray Says Colonel Killed by Armed Forces

PA2201030890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Miami, 21 Jan (AFP)—Haitian opposition leader Hubert de Ronceray said today in Miami that he was the real target of the Armed Forces' attack on a colonel, who was killed by mistake. General Prosper Avril used the assassination as an excuse to decree the state of siege in Haiti on 20 January.

De Ronceray, president of the Centrist Mobilization for National Development (MND), was expelled on 21 January to the United States. He added that the mistake was a result of the fact that the colonel was riding in a car that resembled his and was in an area close to de Ronceray's house.

De Ronceray asserted that he had been alerted by friends that Gen. Avril wanted to "annihilate" him, and that is why he changed altered his regular schedule on 20 January.

The opposition leader said in a news conference that "the colonel was killed by mistake" and added that "the forces came to arrest me 30 minutes after the assassination."

According to De Ronceray, "there is absolutely no possibility of democracy with Gen Avril," who has promised to organize elections only to "get other countries' economic aid. He is a dictator."

De Ronceray, who revealed that he had been kicked and beaten with the butt of a rifle and that a lit cigarette was crushed against one of his eyes after his arrest, said that "the United States must help Haiti" put an end to Gen. Avril's activities.

Opposition Leader Brun Expelled From Country

PA2201044390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0411 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Jan (AFP)—Another member of the Haitian opposition, Gerard Emile Brun, of the Social Democratic Congress of Democratic Movements [KONAKOM], today was expelled from Haiti by the authorities who yesterday decreed the state of siege, a reliable source reported in Port-au-Prince.

Brun was detained yesterday and severely beaten by armed civilians and soldiers during his detention, sources close to his organization have reported.

Three other opposition members, also detained yesterday, apparently were expelled late today, according to unconfirmed reports.

The men reportedly are Sylvan Jolibois, of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines nationalist sector; Michel Legros, of the Movement for the Installation of Democracy, and Max Montreuil, of the neighborhood committee of Cap Haitien, the country's second largest city.

Three other opposition figures were expelled in the past 24 hours. They are Hubert de Ronceray, of the centrist Mobilization for National Development; Louis Roy, of the Organization for the Defense of the Constitution and Free Elections; and Max Bourjolly, second in command of the United Party of Haitian Communists.

L'UNION Article Criticizes Telegram Senders

FL1901193590 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 286, 18 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Article by Joseph J. Bataille: "The Denigrative Operation"]

[Text] While the attention of the majority of the nation's citizens is focused on the problems of economic underdevelopment and its distressing consequences, Haiti has just been stabbed in the back, by means of a degrading telegram sent to friendly foreigners asking them not to come to the aid of our country. A group of people loyal to no country decided to, by denigrating our leaders before international authorities, thwart the work of redressing Haitian diplomacy. This unpatriotic initiative will mark the annals of the history of the Republic, because it is worse than the betrayal of Charlemagne Peralte by Jean Conze, who had once struggled at his side. Certain people saw in such an initiative an opportunity to bring President Avril to bay. Their reasoning: The government of 17 September 1988 must not benefit from the repercussions of South-South diplomacy. One wonders, however, if resorting to greater diplomatic isolation of our country is such a good political strategy?

Nevertheless, one thing remains to be clarified: After their failure before the president of the military government, do the members of this unwholesome fringe of the opposition still harbor the ambition of acquiring power at the National Palace? Does the welcome the population gave the chief of state at the Port-au-Prince airport not suffice to explain the lack of decorum and unpopularity of these descendants of Brunet? [a Haitian historical figure]. There is no doubt that President Avril remains more popular than they with the gallant populations of Port-Salut, the central plateau, Jacmel, Gonaives, and Saint-Marc.

On the other hand, the bitter internal conflicts to which the stakes in the struggle for political power give rise constitute a serious handicap to the process of transformation of the Republic's institutions under a democratic form of government.

The denigrative operation orchestrated by the authors of the 10 January telegram also carries its own incalculable risks—first and foremost, that of trammeling the historic unity of the Haitian nation at a moment when it needs internal cohesion more than it needs to split up into groups. The tendency to play the role of a "fifth column" to the benefit of foreigners could only serve to do us greater disservice. A truly nationalistic opposition could have done better, instead of insulting us in the eyes of our traditional partners.

One must, however, make no mistakes about the behavior of certain antinational actors, to which writer Louis Joseph Janvier has alluded. The illness from which the political class suffers is principally ascribable to the historical formation of the Haitian State. The Battle of Sibert [battle between light-skinned and dark-skinned freedmen over the privileges each group should have], which was a part of this history, serves to bear witness to the fragility of marriages of convenience.

Once again, the descendants of those who assassinated the emperor at Pont-Rouge have tried in vain to destabilize the nation, taking advantage of the chief of state's visit to the Republic of China to call on the members of the Armed Forces High Command to commit military sedition. They committed a serious fault, while losing their support from the Haitian population.

And the crowning misfortune: It is the same old elements of national discord who are still today encouraging the bickering, after having contributed to torpedoing the wealth of the "deep nation." They have never made a secret of their intentions to breakup the Haitian nation.

Regardless of how they feel about President Avril, differences on matters having to do with the country's major orientations must be the topic of internal discussions. No longer must we take our differences before foreign judges to undermine the initiatives of the government of the Republic.

Correction to Avril 15 Jan Return From Taiwan

FL1801212590

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Further on Avril's Return From Taiwan," published in the 18 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 7-8.

Page 8, column one, paragraph five, last sentence reads: ...[applause and indistinct interjections]

The Chinese elite never denigrate their nation, won't sully their country, will not brake the people's progress on the pretext of opposing the government. No! We say: No, you are not thereby opposing the government. You are betraying Haiti. You are betraying the Haitian people, when you sit here in Port-au-Prince, while the nation's president goes out seeking whatever he can

obtain for the Haitian people, and send telegrams to the chief of state of the host nation to tell him not to give the Haitian people aid! [applause and interjections]

This telegram in question was carried in the Chinese papers. I won't name any names. You can look in the newspapers and see who signed it. [voices indicating disapproval heard in background] They carried the telegram precisely to show how little loyalty to the nation a person who would do such a vile thing has. They ask for transparency, but I am quite sure they didn't put that telegram to the people for approval before sending it to President Li Teng-hui. No. This is not opposition to the government. Rather, it constitutes lack of respect for everyone who has learned to read [voice in background says: "Oh yes! Oh yes!"], who at the expense of the Haitian people has managed to get a university degree and has become knowledgeable; lack of respect for all our students currently in the university, for all our young people, who were trying to find things out and who also listened carefully in an attempt to hear everything said by their elders, who know more than they do. What they have done is immoral, given the fact that 80 percent of our population is illiterate—because they know full well many people cannot understand what they are saying.

When they try ... (supplying omitted passage)

Trinidad and Tobago

European Investment Bank To Provide Loan

FL2001152790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 20, CANA—The European Investment Bank (EIB) has announced a 15 million European Currency Unit (one ECU; TT 4.70 dollars) loan for small and medium sized businesses in Trinidad and Tobago's industrial, agro-industrial, and tourism sectors.

A statement from the Port of Spain Commission of the European Communities said that the loan would be made through Trinidad and Tobago's quasi-state Development Finance Company (TTDFC). Part of the loan—a 12 million 15-year ECU package—will go to the TTDFC for on-lending to small and medium sized companies. Some 2.5 million ECUs will go to the TTDFC for its equity participation in small and medium sized enterprises. Thirdly, 500 000 ECUs will be lent by the EIB as equity participation in the TTDFC. The commission said that this is the first equity participation in the name of the community in a Caribbean member of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific group of nations' Development Finance Corporation.

The loan is the fifth to the TTDFC by the EIB. Fifty-five small scale industrial and tourism ventures were financed with the previous four loans.

El Salvador

Arrest of Military Men Ordered in Jesuit Deaths

PA1901174090 Paris AFP in Spanish 1723 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Jan (AFP)—Today, a Salvadoran judge ordered the "provisional arrest" of one Salvadoran colonel and eight other members of the Salvadoran Army involved in the massacre of six Jesuit priests carried out in San Salvador on 16 November.

Ricardo Zamora, judge of the San Salvador Fourth Criminal Court, ordered the arrest of Col Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, director of a Salvadoran military academy; Lieutenants Yushy Rene Mendoza and Jose Ricardo Espinoza; and Sublieutenant Gonzalo Guevara.

The arrest order also includes Sergeants Antonio Ramiro Avalos and Tomas Zarpate Castillo; Corporal Angel Perez Vasquez; and soldiers Oscar Mariano Amaya and Jorge Alberto Sierra. The latter is a fugitive from justice.

Judge Zamora said that the men will be imprisoned in the National Police Jail.

More on Jesuit Case, Col. Benavides

PA1901223290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2033 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Article by Marisol Marin]

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Colonel Guillermo Benavides gave the order to assassinate six Jesuit priests with a peremptory sentence: "Everything is at stake; it is either us or them. These have been the intellectuals who have been guiding the guerrilla groups for a long time."

This is stated in a resolution issued this morning by Judge Ricardo Zamora who ordered a provisional arrest while waiting for the trial of the eight military officers implicated in the crime and the arrest of a third one who has been at large since December.

Two lieutenants and a second lieutenant have accused Benavides in their depositions as the person who "gave the order" on the evening 15 November at the military school he directed and which was in charge of controlling the sector where the Central American University (UCA) is located.

"We will start with the leaders. The university is in our sector and Ellacuria is there. He must be eliminated and I want no witnesses," Benavides said to Lieutenant Yussay Rene Mendoza Vallecillos, according to the latter's testimony.

A few hours later, early in the morning of 16 November, Jesuit priests Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the UCA; Ignacio Martin Baro, Juan Ramon Moreno, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Segundo Montes (Spaniards), and Amando Lopez (Salvadoran), as well as their cook, Elba Julia Ramos, and her daughter, Celina Maricet Ramos, were assassinated.

It all happened during the curfew and 5 days after the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrilla groups had launched their largest offensive.

Benavides gave the order to Lieutenant Mendoza, Lieutenant Espinoza, and Second Lieutenant Guevara Cerritos, officers of the Atlacatl Battalion, an elite unit trained by the United States, which had been sent to the military school.

The soldiers were told that it was necessary "to eliminate the guerrilla groups' intellectual leaders and that they were at the UCA," according to Corporal Angel Perez Vasquez' deposition.

They were also told that "there was information that some injured terrorist criminals would be taken to the UCA" and they were insistently told that "all the people there were terrorists."

According to Second Sergeant Antonio Ramiro Avalos Vargas' version, the mission must be secretly carried out because they would find subversive material and other kinds of material that could be used, such as medicine, boots, and clothes.

According to the military officers' depositions gathered in the judge's resolution, a flare would be fired when they were about to withdraw, to indicate there had been a clash.

Second Sergeant Antonio Ramiro Avalos Vargas says that five of the six Jesuits were taken out to the garden and ordered to lie face down, then Lieutenant Espinoza ordered him and Private Mariano Amaya Grimaldi to proceed.

The three officers admitted that they knew about this, but not about their participation in the crime. The four soldiers admitted their role as executioners, out of loyalty to their superiors and because they were afraid they would be considered traitors.

The judge said there are "enough elements" to establish the participation of Colonel Guillermo Benavides in these actions, including, first of all, the deposition signed by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ponce said he ordered the creation of a security commando, with headquarters in the military school and under Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides' command, to defend the military installations located in the zone which might become the targets of "a terrorist aggression." The UCA is also located in the zone.

The judicial resolution includes the depositions given by all the prisoners to the police, except Col Benavides, who met with Judge Ricardo Zamora for over 2 hours.

The investigation was carried out by a crime investigation commission which later sent the evidence and

findings to an Army honor commission that will cooperate in determing who is responsible.

Merino Announces Resignation, Cabinet Changes

PA1901210290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1915 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)— Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino announced today that there will be various Cabinet changes, specifically in the Ministries of the Presidency, Foreign Relations, Justice, and Planning, and confirmed that he will resign his post as interior minister.

"There will be some administrative changes, ministers and deputy ministers, with the intention of improving the administration in some posts, such as the Ministries of the Presidency, Justice, Planning, Interior, and Foreign Relations, which will be announced in due time by President (Alfredo) Cristiani," Merino said.

Vice President Merino held a news conference today at the Interior Ministry's auditorium after informing the employees of that institution that he will leave his post in April.

According to Merino, the Cabinet changes do not reflect divisions within the government, adding that "the same government officials" will be transferred to other government positions "without seeming to be going in circles."

Merino accused the guerrillas of circulating rumors that the legal process against nine soldiers presumably implicated in the murder of the Jesuits has provoked internal divisions within the government, forcing President Cristiani to reshuffle his Cabinet.

In the case of the Foreign Ministry, which is currently under Manuel Pacas, Merino said that "the need to expand the ministry's action has become evident; we all know that the level of disinformation abroad has been high and we have lacked the means to defend our image."

Merino announced that a new deputy Foreign Ministry post will be created and that government officials "having great experience or international contacts" will be transferred to those positions, in order to improve that ministry's work.

Merino, who said that he is "definitely pleased" with his replacement in the Interior Ministry, adding that the current Presidency Minister Colonel Juan Martinez Varela is the best candidate to substitute him in that post

According to diplomatic sources, current Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria will reportedly be transferred to the Ministry of the Presidency, while Francisco Guerrero, one of the president's secretaries, will be appointed justice minister.

Merino announced that the Deputy Interior Ministry, which is currently under the Colonel Carlos Figueroa, will not be continued.

"The idea of my transfer is to enable me to concentrate better on my executive duties, as the president will have a year of intensive activities abroad. We have been preparing to make the position of the Salvadoran vice president a very active one, a position that in the past has been merely decorative," Merino stresed.

Diplomatic sources consulted by ACAN-EFE said that the changes respond to the president's plans to strenghten his position in the Executive Branch by putting loyal and efficient individuals in key positions.

Meanwhile, the Christian Democratic Party, the largest opposition group, has said that the Cabinet adjustments are the result of an internal crisis within the ruling party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), between a hard-line sector controlled by Mayor Roberto D'Aubuisson and a more moderate sector made up of Cristiani's followers.

Archbishop Condemns Renewed Threats

PA2101193490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1725 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jan (DPA)—Msgr. Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, today announced that he has again received death threats through his secretaries and the archbishopric's cooks, "but I feel at peace and that I am in God's hands," the pastor said.

Rivera y Damas admitted, nevertheless, that generalized persecution of the church has diminished, although it has not disappeared, and added that over the past 10 years many priests have been killed, including an archbishop, "but the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians," he said.

Rivera y Damas pointed out that he has received many complaints concerning the church's position on the Jesuits' murder, but today "it is known that the archbishopric was right to point out where it believed the murderers were. This position was confirmed by President Alfredo Cristiani, who, by fulfilling his promise to get to the very bottom of the case through investigations, has become worthy of worldwide recognition."

In another part of his homily, Rivera y Damas said today that "to be bishop of a people who have suffered the scourge of a fratricidal war for the past 10 years implies having very deeply rooted mercy for human pain, which must take precedence over any political, economic, or ideological considerations, and is an irrevocable pledge."

The archbishop said that among the most important eclessiastical events of the week in San Salvador were the Salvadoran episcopal conference, which concluded with a call for peace, and the consignment to courts of justice of the soldiers accused of murdering the Jesuit priests.

There was special interest in the meeting, especially because it was known that a letter had been sent to the bishops by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, requesting the church's mediation and its efforts to resume a dialogue. "I believe," Msgr Rivera y Damas said, "that the meetings of President Alfredo Cristiani and the FMLN with the UN secretary general are important."

To conclude, Rivera y Damas reiterated that "we must end this war through dialogue and rational means before the war finishes us all."

Nicaragua

Ortega Reportedly Not To Attend Honduras Summit

PA1901194090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1915 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (DPA)—Reliable sources have told DPA that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will not attend the informal Central American summit scheduled for 29 January in Honduras on the occasion of the presidential inauguration of Honduran President-elect Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

According to the information, President Ortega cannot travel to Honduras because of the work he has to do in the election campaign, which will culminate with the 25 February elections.

A few days ago, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said in San Jose that the informal summit would have no agenda and that it would center around an exchange of viewpoints among the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Salvadoran, and Nicaraguan presidents.

Ortega: New Honduran President Must Oust Contras

PA2001022590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2123 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today that new Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas "must adopt a manly attitude" to oust the contra forces from Honduran territory.

During a rally of the governing Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in Dario, a city located 60 km north of Managua, Ortega said Callejas "has the obligation" to oust the contras from their camps in Honduras.

"The new Honduran president must adopt a manly attitude and prove that he really rules the country by ousting the contras once and for all," the president emphasized.

President Ortega said that if Callejas does not expel the rebels camped in Honduras he will be "like a figurehead."

Daniel Ortega said that he repeatedly demanded that Honduran President Jose Azcona, who will soon end his term, expel the rebels but—according to the Sandinist president—Azcona "always used the excuse that the Yankees brought the contras to Honduras."

He added that Azcona, given his "inability" to order the rebels' ouster, confessed he "was afraid that he would not be obeyed or that the rifles would be turned on him and he would be ousted by a coup d'etat."

"That is Azcona's problem, meaning the problem of other Latin American presidents who live under the threat of bayonets. That is why they have to think twice before they make that type of decision," Ortega added.

In August 1989, the five Central American presidents agreed in Tela (Honduras) to demobilize the contras in exchange for Nicaragua's democratization.

The area's presidents appointed an International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV), comprised of the UN and OAS secretaries general, to carry out the demobilization or relocation—in Nicaragua or third countries—of 12,000 rebel fighters camped in Honduras.

Ortega Warns Contras Against Ambushing Him

PA2001151490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1313 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned today that if the contras ambush him, "we will come face to face."

The president and presidential candidate for the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front party, addressed the rebels from the township of La Trinidad, 120 km north of Managua, during his intense election campaign.

The contras staged a fierce fight with Sandinist troops in Las Mesas de los Espejos, 8 km from La Trinidad on 18 January, which left four dead (three rebels and one Sandinist soldier).

Ortega said his visit to La Trinidad was announced several days in advance, which would have allowed the rebels "plenty of time to prepare an ambush against him."

"But they did not, because they all they know how to do is ambush nuns and peasants," the Nicaraguan president said, alluding to the 1 January attack in the country's northern Atlantic Coast.

In that ambush, which the government claims was carried out by the contras, two nuns, an American and a Nicaraguan, were killed, and Catholic Bishops Msgr Pablo Schmidtz and another Nicaraguan nun were wounded.

La Trinidad has been the target since 1 August of one of the fiercest attacks launched by the anti-Sandinist rebels this year. "On that occasion (the contras) tried to occupy La Trinidad, but suffered one of the greatest defeats ever inflicted on them by the Army," Ortega recalled.

Ortega Repels Ambush

PA2201144790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1417 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] We must report a charge levied by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega against the U.S. Administration. Yesterday an ambush failed because Daniel Ortega took command of the situation and repelled the attack. Commander Daniel Ortega held the U.S. Government, and especially President George Bush, responsible for any attack on him and his retinue. He made that charge shortly after a group of approximately 600 contras tried to ambush him yesterday afternoon in the area between Chinali and San Juan del Rio Coco, Madriz Department.

A contra group was stationed 45 minutes away from Chininali, waiting to ambush Commander Ortega. In Chinali, state security and and EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officers warned Daniel of the danger of going to San Juan by land because the mercenaries had been detected in the mountains along the highway. However, Daniel Ortega said the mass rally in San Juan was not going to be suspended and that the town's people were not going to be disappointed.

When they got close to the area where the contras were, Commander Ortega got out of his vehicle and told those with him to do likewise. Gun in hand, he led the operation to defend his life and repel the attack. As the contras realized Daniel and his retinue were ready to repel the attack, they did not dare carry out their terrorist action but left the area.

Ortega Gives Campaign Speech in Ciudad Dario

PA2001190990 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Jan 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by Juan R. Huerta]

[Text] Ciudad Dario, Matagalpa—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced here in the presence of more than 15,000 people that on 22 January he will give the nation a detailed report on the government's efforts last year to stop inflation and the economic confusion that the application of demagogic formulas would introduce in the economy.

Ortega also said that the most recent campaign unleashed by LA PRENSA against the people with disinformation and economic lies is directed by officials of the U.S. Embassy in Managua in a last ditch effort to destabilize the election process and create mistrust among the population. He said, however, that inflation in January is 4.9 percent and that this means it is under control.

Ortega arrived in Ciudad Dario yesterday in the midst of a huge crowd and walked the neighborhoods and streets of the town which also commemorated the 123d birthday of Ruben Dario who, in addition to praising to the skies the country's name, "was a courageous patriot who told the Yankees the truth through his poems," Ortega said.

More than 15,000 people walked with Daniel, who was dressed in a red sweater and black trousers. The people vied for a chance to shake his hand or at least greet the candidate of peace, as he was called here in Ciudad Dario.

"He is smart and walked very near my home. All of us saw him. He is strong, youthful, kind, nice, and inspires confidence," commented a young woman from Dario shortly before Ortega arrived at the Lester Obando square accompanied by Doris Tijerino, Carlos Zamora, Hermogenes Rodriguez, Ivan Rivera, Rigoberto Mairena, and Karolina Valle, among others, all of them candidates for deputy in Region 6.

"This is a real demonstration of strength and trust that the FSLN will win big in the 25 February elections. We are here before a people who trust in peace and their government," Daniel Ortega stated, after being cheered by supporters from San Isidro, Sebaco, and Terrabona.

Daniel compared the achievements of the revolution in war zones with the heroism the people of that area have shown in their own cooperatives and settlements, citing as an example Teotecacinte, a village close to the border with Honduras in Nueva Segovia Department.

He explained to area residents that the U.S. Government is solely to blame for the war, and that the handful of young men who have defended the fatherland in the Patriotic Military Service [SMP] constitute the key factor that permitted holding the elections and moving the revolution forward.

"Without the SMP, no political party could be conducting campaigns in the cities, and no UNO [National Opposition Union] follower would be destabilizing the revolution unimpeded in their homes, they way they do in Ciudad Dario and other towns. That is why the SMP is necessary and vital. If this component of the war has had an impact on defense methods, it is because the gringos imposed the [word indistinct] war on us," the president stated. Daniel challenged the turncoats to join the call for peace in Nicaragua so that the SMP would not entail a risk to the lives of thousands of young men.

Ortega referred to the latest UNO campaign, through newspaper LA PRENSA, saying it was dead in the water. "Since they know they will lose the elections, they are trying to paint an unfavorable and misleading picture of the economy. However, the government has made an effort, and the results are better than expected and above the ill-intentioned estimates of the enemies of the revolution, who felt that the increase in the inflation rate would be 300 percent. [no end quotation mark as published]

The inflation rate in 1988 was 33,000 percent, while in 1989 it dropped to 1,700 percent. So far in January, it is barely 4.9 percent, something considered acceptable, the president remarked. However the government will give a detailed account of the efforts undertaken not only to improve the workers' wages, but to improve real wages

with AFA [Rice, Beans, and Sugar Package], the glass of milk program, and other efforts chiefly directed at workers and producers.

Daniel blamed the U.S. Embassy officials who still remain in Managua for the recent campaign from the right, which in addition to being ill-intentioned, is deceptive and slanderous.

On such subjects as the oil problem, Ortega pledged to personally tell oil manufacturers to verify the real production costs, because the industry is in the hands of private producers, including a large private company owned by the UNO campaign chief. Daniel called on the Honduran president-elect, who will take office at the end of the month, to keep the agreements made by the Central American presidents to remove the contras from his country.

The candidate left Ciudad Dario shortly after 1400 to meet with El Horno cooperative area producers in Sebaco. Later, he was to hand out approximately 66 new land deeds in the suburban town of Solingalpa, in the city of Matagalpa.

Welcomed in La Trinidad

PA2101201790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Jan 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] La Trinidad, Esteli—Upon arriving in La Trinidad, Esteli, yesterday, President Daniel Ortega saw overflowing joy, enthusiasm, and support for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. Ortega, who arrived here as part of his electoral campaign, was welcomed by more than 10,000 people.

Approximately 200 horseback riders, led by Roberto Laguna, a peasant and FSLN candidate for deputy, received Daniel with their red and black flags, applause, and smiles. When Ortega approached, one of the eager peasants shouted: "Behold the true rein!"

The counterrevolutionaries' threats, pressure, and killings the day before to frighten the peasants and prevent them from coming from their homes to receive their president came to nothing because the Ministry of the Interior, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], and the Patriotic Military Service protected the 10,000 people who came to tell Daniel: "Here are the votes of the people of La Trinidad."

The people came out of their homes to greet Daniel. Meanwhile, hundreds of children and beautiful girls with broad smiles ran forward saying: "He is coming. It is him, the one with a green shirt and hat."

The crowd, overflowing the circle of the organizers, accompanied the president for more than 10 blocks. "Welcome to our town," said a moved mother out of her two-story home. Smartly dressed old and young ladies threw down flowers to their favorite candidate.

It is worthwhile to mention that the UNO [National Opposition Unity] activists had to admit that they had been defeated. Before Daniel rode by, members of UNO closed their doors. The people commented: "Let those of UNO shout whatever they want. Here comes our president and no one will defeat us."

A child climbed up to the dais and sweetly said to Daniel: "Children really love you and thank you for the toys you sent us for Christmas." Speaking on behalf of bakers, Rosita Meneses said: "Just as the loaves of bread were multiplied, the votes for the FSLN will multiply," while giving him huge loaves of bread.

Before meeting the large crowd in La Trinidad, Daniel visited the Pedro Altamirano General Hospital, and met with two Sandino cubs who were wounded during fighting in La Mesa de los Espejos. Daniel held the United States and UNO responsible for the situation.

In his speech he said that the contras are close to La Trinidad because they do not want to understand that they lost the war. "The truth is that they are stupid," he said. He urged the contras to accept the generous hand the people are offering so that they can come to work in peace and rebuild their homes.

The president recognized the heroism of La Trinidad residents, by recalling that on 1 August 1985, La Trinidad militias handed the contras their biggest defeat. The people expelled the contras, killing and wounding many of them. "They no longer have the strength to threaten the revolution. They could not take a single town then, much less now; all they can do is kill," he said.

He recalled that, thanks to the Patriotic Military Service [SMP], the people of La Trinidad can work, dance, have a few drinks, play billards, and attend mass and evangelical services. That is why the UNO business about ending the SMP does not work here, because the problem is the war. "If there was no war, no one would die, and the young men would serve their SMP without fear of dying and would help peasants in production and in the reconstruction of the country." he noted.

The president also said that the contras are desperate because in a few weeks they will be buried with the votes all the people will cast on 25 February on slot [casilla] 5. After the ceremony concluded, Daniel met with businessmen, industrialists, peasants, and mothers of heroes and martyrs. Also attending the meeting were candidates for deputy Commander Francisco Rivera, Carlos Manuel Morales, Martha Munguia, and others, as well as council candidates from San Juan and La Trinidad.

Ramirez Criticizes UNO 'Liars' in Las Sierritas

PA2101222890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Las Sierritas, Nicaragua (special correspondent)—Dr Sergio Ramirez, FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] vice presidential candidate, said that UNO's

[National Opposition Union] economists and advisers are "arrogant demagogues and liars." These UNO officials recently said they had a "formula" to resolve the country's economic problems within a week.

"They are arrogant and liars because, while God needed a week to create the world, they say it will take them only 7 days to resolve the country's economic problems," Dr Ramirez said on 17 January. "We Sandinists are not demagogues because we do not promise to solve problems overnight," he added.

The vice presidential candidate arrived in las Sierritas at nearly 1900. More than 3,000 urban and rural residents welcomed him amid applause and fireworks. Near the local church there was an air of cheerfulness, similar to that observed during the festivity of Santo Domingo de Guzman.

Ramirez recalled that Nicaragua's "economic problems began when the Reagan administration imposed on Nicaragua its military aggression and a commercial and financial embargo and forced Nicaragua to establish an economy of war and survival." He said that production had increased by 20 percent in 1980, before the war.

Ramirez described UNO members as "demagogues and liars. They share the responsibility for destroying the country and causing an economic disaster. It is they who caused inflation, low salaries, and high bank interest rates. They did tremendous damage while leading the contras."

He also recalled that Alfredo Cesar, Azucena and Roberto Ferrey, among others who led the contras, now head the UNO. "They, the leaders, are responsible for so much damage and grief," he added.

Ramirez arrived accompanied by candidates for deputy Luis Carrion Montoya and Juan Diego Lopez, who are private businessmen. Ramirez said that in the next 7 years of Sandinist government, "we will make a great concerted effort" with the patriotic producers.

He said that, when the FSLN wins the 25 February elections, the country will enjoy peace, progress, democracy, and social justice. "I can assure you those will be 7 years of peace and prosperity. Those 7 years will be the best in the country's history."

Ramirez added: "The train of the rightists and UNO has derailed and crashed, tumbling into the abyss." That of the FSLN, on the contrary, runs full speed ahead because it has a powerful locomotive and an experienced engineer, Daniel Ortega.

Carlos Medina, a local producer, said that Santo Domingo de las Sierritas fought the Somozist dictatorship and that, in accordance with this historic bequest, the town "will cast its votes at booth 5 because we support the FSLN," he said. The ability to marshal forces in this town and nearby areas was made evident yesterday, when more than 3,000 people rallied to receive Ramirez.

Yesterday, Ramirez handed over a deed to the local Camilo Ortega cooperative, as well as sports items for the Santo Domingo and La Hoyada baseball teams. "We are celebrating in advance the FSLN's overwhelming election victory," he said.

At the end of the event, Ramirez and candidates for deputies Commander Mauricio Valenzuela, Jose Angel Bermudez, Hernaldo Duarte, Luis Carrion Montoya, Juan Diego Lopez, and Rodolfo Lopez met with local producers and notables.

Chamorro Stops Flow of Funding to Godoy

PA2101191690 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Jan 90 pp 4, 8

[Text] The uncontrolled UNO ranks are very unhappy with candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's recent dispositions. She instructed her foreign financial sources not to give one more penny to her vice presidential candidate, Virgilio Godoy, because he had attempted "to go over her head" while she was recovering at a Houston hospital.

According to confidential sources related to UNO's political council, Mrs. Chamorro took the measure after her son-in-law Antonio Lacayo informed her that while she was in Houston, Godoy—without anyone's permission—decided to go to the United States to collect funds in dollars from the Nicaraguan refugees who reside in that country and support their alliance.

The UNO member who leaked the information said that Lacayo had suggested to his mother-in-law that she contact the Nicaraguan refugees in the United States, as well as other persons who have backed the counterrevolution, to tell them not to give any money to Virgilio Godoy because, up to now, he has not explained how he spent the Liberal Party's funds.

Following her son-in-law's suggestions, Mrs. Chamorro also decided that any donation made to UNO "wherever it comes from" must be channeled to her personal account and that the only person authorized to withdraw funds in dollars is the campaign director, her own son-in-law, Antonio Lacayo.

Moreover, Mrs. Chamorro believed these measures to be justified as Lacayo had also told her that, when she was not present, he had strong clashes with Virgilio and his people because Godoy always wanted to be the center of public attention. Her position was reinforced by the fact that the vice presidential candidate had misused his authority by trying to collect funds in dollars without her permission.

At a meeting on 16 January, all the UNO Political Council members learned of Virgilio Godoy's great embarrassment when he tried to get funds in dollars and was told that Mrs. Chamorro had given instructions that he was not to be given any cash.

The situation made all the persons at the meeting ponder: How is it that UNO asserts it has not received funds but, at the same time, reports that the dollars

received have been deposited in Mrs. Chamorro's personal account and are at the disposal of her son-in-law, Tono [nickname] Lacayo? Someone recalled that once, when Antonio was called to order, he responded with insults and requested that the 500 million cordobas he had given for the campaign be returned to him.

UNO Candidate Godoy Predicts Election Victory

PA2001143190 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] The National Opposition Union's [UNO] vice presidential hopeful, Virgilio Godoy, and UNO militants running for deputy seats yesterday evening marched with the residents of the neighborhoods Cofradias, Altamira D'Este, San Judas, Colonia Centroamerica, and Batahola Sur.

The people of Altamira D'Este shouted: "Let Ortega and Tomas go away and never return." In so shouting, they were releasing anti-Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] feelings fueled by 10 years of the disastrous economic, political, and social administration of the Sandinist government.

Godoy and deputy candidates Adan Fletes, Allan Zambrana, Adolfo Jarquin, and Reynaldo Hernandez headed the march that began at 1800 near the Distribuidora Vicky building.

Adan Fletes told hundreds of supporters: "This is a march toward election victory on 25 February. Let there be no doubt—UNO will win the elections."

Referring to Ortega and his claim that UNO would withdraw from the elections, Fletes said: "It is absurd to think that those who will win could be thinking about withdrawing from the elections."

Godoy, who closed the rally in Altamira, seeing the enthusiasm of the townspeople, said: "With a people like this, no Ortega is any good. We are ready for victory on 25 February."

He said that there would not be peace in Nicaragua until the Sandinists leave government once and for all.

The candidates then went to Colonia Centroamericana where they marched with approximately 300 residents.

Reynaldo Hernandez, another candidate for a deputy seat, asked the people if they were thinking about abandoning the election race and the crowd responded with a loud: No!

Hernandez noted: "The people will not run away, it will be the cock [referring to the FSLN] who will run."

In referring to a national agreement that the government has been hinting it would like to reach, Virgilio Godoy said that the opposition cannot believe in those who for the 10 years they have been in government have been promoting division.

Today, 17 January, UNO candidates will be visiting the neighborhoods of Cuba, Andres Castro, Ciudad Sandino, Ciudad Jardin, and Jardines de Veracruz. On Thursday, they will go to the neighborhoods of San Sebastian, Carlos Reynan, Benedicto Valverde, Rubenia, Residencial El Dorado, and Bosques de Altamira.

On Friday, UNO candidates will visit Las Brisas, San Jose Oriente, Unidad de Proposito, and El Pilar.

UNO Not To Withdraw From Campaign

PA2001190190 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Lies of Cowardice"]

[Text] As the electoral campaign advances, the so-called FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] vanguard has confirmed that its days in power are numbered and sealed with a deadline—25 February. The countdown, which begins today, gives it only 1 month and 9 days. These are the final days for the nine commanders who will go down in history as the political-military figures who in a single decade in government caused more harm to Nicaragua than all natural phenomena experienced in our country from Acahualinca [not further identified] to hurricane Joan, not to mention the earthquakes of 1931 and 1972.

Convinced that the people will do them in at the polls, the commanders have run out of excuses to paper over their sad fate. With their minds clouded by the inevitable defeat awaiting them, they have forced their "scribes and pharisees" to disseminate the false report hat "on orders from Washington," UNO [National Opposition Union] is thinking of pulling out of the electoral race. They spread the lie through BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO, the 16 CORADEP [People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation] stations, the official television station, and every other medium under their control. None of those media has been able to name the source of the report. If a newsman—a foreign correspondent, for instance—was to ask the directors of the official newspapers to name the source, they would not know what to say or would have to confess that the report originated in the FSLN's propaganda offices.

LA PRENSA's reporters were able to chart the "course" followed by the lie. A middle echelon Sandinist cadre informed another during a conversation that the "intelligence" services had discovered an alleged poll among UNO members and that some of those members had said that "because of the absence of conditions for carrying out a free and clean election," UNO might consider the possibility of stepping out of the race.

In turn, the middle echelon cadre told his opposition friend that his source was an activist attached to the propaganda offices of the Ortega-Ramirez slate seeking reelection.

Without taking the trouble to determine if the poll had been taken or not, Daniel Ortega—who has no sense of responsibility and, more than anyone else, would like to see the elections called off, cast the report onto the "air waves," as newsmen say. Right after the president's remarks, the balloon grew in size.

The truth is that no UNO member has suggested at any time that UNO is thinking of pulling out of the race. The coalition's top leaders have repeatedly confirmed the decision to go to the finish on 25 February with the certainty that UNO will win.

The so-called poll was a lie concocted to soothe the commanders' frayed nerves, most particularly the nerves of the candidate running for reelection.

Actually, only the Sandinists are interested in a suspension of the elections. There is ample evidence of this interest, and the suspension of the cease-fire is one. Another piece—or pieces—of evidence is the constant harassment of UNO activists by the divine mobs. The defeat nightmare even led to the issuance of the sadly famous communique by the Defense Ministry announcing "the neutralization, cutting down, and execution of opponents," which only represents a homicidal intent concealed behind allegations that the United States intends to invade our country. In this regard, one could ask: "What interest could the Yankees have in invading Nicaragua if the government here is prepared to fulfill its promise to establish democracy? Are we not witness to the joy with which the United States has welcomed the cases of democratization in Eastern Europe? Can anyone imagine that it will invade Poland, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, or Romania? On the contry, not thinking twice about it, the United States has decided to help those countries economically, as everyone knows.

We have verified that it is utterly false that UNO is thinking of withdrawing from the elections. As Dona Violeta said upon her return from Houston: "Let me make it quite clear—whoever withdraws is a coward." The truth is that the Sandinists know they are going to lose the elections and are so terrified that they cannot even think of anything but to continue lying to themselves.

Election Participation Reiterated

PA2001185590 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jan 90

["Text" of communique from National Opposition Union, UNO, Political Council; date and place not given]

[Text] UNO reiterates once more its unbreakable decision to take part in the 25 February elections to rescue the rights of the Nicaraguan people trampled upon by the Sandinist government and establish an authentically democratic regime of justice and liberty. Our alliance has set this goal and, with this purpose in mind, maintains a solid unit that will take our cause to victory and the patriotic exercise of power [words indistinct], to faithfully apply our government program of national salvation, and attain lasting and firm peace. The task of this civic struggle is being developed and will be taken to a happy conclusion by UNO's political parties. These same parties are those that together with the people will lead the country in its reconstruction. This is the change our people yearn for, leaving behind all the incompetence and abuse. Spokesmen representing the official party—nervous and fearful because of the people's decision to change things—have set out to create confusion and distrust by mentioning possible political pacts with UNO and have dared to insinuate that we will withdraw from the elections. Such speculation is the result of the fantasies of the losing incumbent candidate; it is completely false and of evil intent. Those who are sure of winning do not withdraw. We do not accept arrangements or compromises—either before or after the elections. Our behavior is unyielding and unquestionable. We are going all the way, demanding free, just, and honest elections, and participating in the elections no matter what obstacles we may find in our path.

UNO will not shun the elections. Our alliance has wide support among the people and, because of this, the Sandinist Front does everything in its power to discourage and frighten people. It wants an easy victory, but this will not take place. We trust the [word indistinct] of our people. We trust their spirit of struggle and unrelenting courage. We again call upon the citizens to continue to participate in this civic struggle and fully and enthusiastically join the UNO cause as it has proven to be popular, just, and the best managed.

UNO is the only way to attain freedom and solve the economic crisis. Without UNO there will be no change. The Sandinist regime has sunk the country into poverty and oppression; we must eliminate these conditions. For a government of national liberation: UNO.

[Signed] National Political Council

'Possibility' of Withdrawal Viewed

PA2001134590 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 3

[Editorial: "UNO's Possible Withdrawal"]

[Text] The possibility that UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Union] could withdraw from the electoral process—a calculated maneuver in an attempt to tarnish the legitimacy of the elections—would have no real basis if the U.S. Government had absolute certainty that its candidates had enough national support to win or at least "split" the results of the 25 February elections. However, if to the contrary the general perception in Washington and among UNO's top echelons is that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will overwhelmingly win absolutely clean elections closely observed by international witnesses, there are indeed enough reasons to warn about that perfectly feasible possibility.

The problem of what to do in the face of a Sandinist victory, which would be confirmed by international observers, has caused serious divisions within the U.S. Government. For the most extremist sectors, that inevitable conclusion is simply politically unacceptable, to the extent that those groups have adopted the dangerous syllogism that "if UNO does not win, it will be because the Sandinists committed fraud." However, that anticipated justification for well-known warmongering positions (resumption of military aid for the contras, a military invasion of Nicaragua, etc.) has suffered a serious setback in view of the unquestioned credibility of the electoral campaign. Evaluations by international observers, as well as stated acknowledgement by reknown U.S. personalities such as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Elliot Richardson, and even by UNO's representatives, are clear in the sense that the elections have been organized in such a way that the possibility of any serious irregularities have already been ruled out.

Considering that it will not be possible to discredit the elections after they take place, the only alternative is to try to disqualify them with a sudden move—UNO's withdrawal—alleging lack of requisite conditions for just elections.

The allegation of "lack of conditions" has already been used by the United States, to restrict the "Democratic Coordinating Board"—the same people who today constitute the bulk of the UNO—from taking part in the 1984 elections. At that time, in view of the inevitability of defeat, they said that the campaign period was too brief for them to organize themselves; and when the Sandinists presented a counterproposal to negotiate postponing the election date, Washington's candidate Arturo Cruz admitted that he was not authorized to sign the agreement and left the negotiations table in Rio de Janeiro. Years later, Cruz himself admitted during an interview with a U.S. newspaper that neither Washington nor the "Coordinating Board" truly intended to participate in the elections. Obviously, the expectations of both were already set on a war of aggression and not on democracy.

Keeping this tragic precedent in mind, one need not be very shrewd to see what is happening in the campaign's final stretch. First, the question as to the margin of the FSLN's victory has already been answered.

In recent weeks, the FSLN has witnessed formidable demonstrations of popular support, a fact that all the polls correctly make evident. This contrasts with the immobility of, and growing internal conflicts within, UNO. Second, it cannot be denied that the only visible electoral activity that UNO carries out is to fabricate all manner of increasingly absurd excuses to justify its political infirmity and that it does this by muddying the elections process.

First it complained about a special Sandinist People's Army communique, then about the slow disbursment of dollars (a situation that UNO provoked by not complying with legal procedures), then UNO claimed being denied a registration record that has always been available, and finally, UNO contends that mass resignations of UNO candidates are the result of a government campaign. UNO has stopped just short of blaming the government for a domestic accident suffered by its presidential candidate.

However, everyone, including the observers, knows that the defeat that UNO is reluctantly beginning to admit is due more to its internal conflicts and its association with the contras and the Bush government than to the rules of the elections process. This time, if UNO decides on the worst alternative and commits the same error it committed in 1984 when it obeyed the Yankees' orders, it will have less credible excuses to justify its withdrawal and, therefore, it will be in an unfavorable position to call for U.S. actions against the legitimacy of an irreversible elections process. However, after seeing the Marines invading Panama, who would dare discard the possibility of another absurd action?

UNO Social Christian Parties Issue Statement

PA2201130590 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Statement issued by Social Christian parties within the National Opposition Union, UNO; date and place not given]

[Text] We, the candidates for National Assembly representatives for the Social Christian parties that form part of UNO, hereby address the Nicaraguan people and the international public to state the following:

1. The legitimate Social Christian opposition parties are participating in the alliance represented by the UNO and headed by UNO presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. This participation confirms our permanent policy of putting the country's interests before any personal or partisan interest and demonstrates the failure of the Sandinists' attempt to confuse Social Christian supporters.

2. Despite the existing unequal conditions, we state our commitment to see that the electoral process concludes on 25 February with a free vote and a clean vote count that is respected as the majority of the Nicaraguan people desire. Any wheeling and dealing would only delay the handing over of power to its rightful owner, the Nicaraguan people, represented by the UNO.

3. There is no doubt of the overwhelming victory that the UNO will achieve on 25 February. This triumph will bring a change that signifies the institutionalization of democracy in Nicaragua to establish a lawful regime with the submission of the military to civilian authority and the exercise of civil rights and guarantees. This will, in turn, permanently end the war in our country and permit the demilitarization of society.

4. We, the future Social Christian parliamentary faction, will promote a number of reforms and legal initiatives to facilitate the execution of UNO's government plan.

5. This parliamentary faction will ensure that the government of national salvation maintains as its primary objective the well-being of our society, respect for human dignity, and achievement of the best for each and every Nicaraguan—essential conditions for the achievement of a firm and lasting peace in our country.

6. We call on government employees, the military, and the citizenry in general to vote for the UNO, in slot number 1, protected by the guarantee of a secret vote which allows voting to be done solely on the basis of a Christian sense of responsibility, as was stated by the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua, led by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

[Signed] National Action Party, Popular Social Christian Party in the UNO, and National Democratic Confidence Party.

UNO Denounces Arrest of Opposition Candidate

PA2101222690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Letter from Roger Guevara Mena of the International Liaison Office of the National Opposition Union, UNO, to representatives of the OAS and UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua; date not given]

[Text] We hereby inform you of the arbitrary and unjustified arrest of Dr Julian Holmes Argüello, UNO candidate for deputy and a prominent national leader. Our leader is under arrest either on the outskirts of the city or in some unknown jail. For this reason, we require your good services to help obtain his release.

May this complaint serve as a valid and sufficient instrument that will allow you to best carry out your observations, as well as ensure the fulfillment of the current electoral law.

Thanking you for your attention, I remain, sincerely yours,

[Signed] Roger Guevara Mena, International Liaison Office, UNO

Opposition Alleges FSLN Attacks, Threats

PA2201014490

[Editorial Report] Nicaraguan opposition media, namely Managua Radio Corporacion and Managua LA PRENSA, on 19 January carried reports denouncing attacks on and threats against National Opposition Union [UNO] members.

Radio Corporacion carries the text of two letters from UNO legal representative Dr Luis Benavides. The first is addressed to Dr Dionisio Palacios, president of the Regional Electoral Council in Leon Department. Benavides says that "another peaceful UNO meeting was taking place at about 1915 on 18 January at the entrance of the Hermita de Dolores Church when a shower of small rocks hit the crowd from various directions, injuring Dr Rosa Catalina Guardado," a representative of the Democratic Party of National Confidence, an UNO party. The letter adds that Emilio Puerta, coordinator of the UNO Democratic Youth, was also slightly injured.

Benavides says that "Captain Francisco Diaz attended the meeting and, although the identity of the culprits has not yet been determined, it is known that they are supporters of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. The mobs are back again acting like cavemen in the darkness of night. These are individuals who respect no God or law and whose aim is to kill all those who do not think as they do." Benavides concludes his letter by denouncing the attack, demanding an investigation into the incident, and stating that Dr Guardado will file a report with the police authorities.

A second letter by Dr Luis Benavides states that at about 1900 on 16 January in El Sauce, UNO activists Antonio Herrera Bermudez, Jose Luis Pastora Picardo, Barney Torres, Victor Jimenez, Frank Jimenez, Augusto Zamora, Jose Filemon Torres Trujillo, and Ivania Saavedra were pursued, harrassed, and threatened with death by several soldiers who were traveling in a jeep led by Mr Corrales, alias Supacha, who beat up Jesse Maria Palacios Garcia, one of the activists who was painting slogans on the sides of homes whose owners had given them permission to do so."

The 19 January edition of LA PRENSA features on page 19 a report on the letter sent by Dr Mauricio Altamirano to the Supreme Electoral Council reporting the death threats issued by FSLN Political Secretary Jose Maria Paguagua against his entire family. Paguagua reportedly said that if Altamirano continues to be an UNO candidate for alderman, and if a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua ever occurs, he would "blow the heads off" Altamirano and other opponents. Paguagua also urged other FSLN party members to carry out violent actions against Altamirano family members.

LA PRENSA also featues on page 3 a report on a letter from Francisco Jose Morales Aleman to the UN election observers accusing FSLN activists in Rio San Juan of electoral harassment. Morales' letter says "the UNO leadership in Rio San Juan and the people view with concern" the UN observers' absence because FSLN activists feel free to "harass, offend, and beat up" UNO candidates and activists. Morales' letter gives details on nine such incidents and contends that "anarchy, repression, and terror are being withstood by these communities."

Local UNO Campaign Head Predicts UNO Defeat

PA2001200890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Felis Tomas]

[Text] Chinandega City, Chinandega Department—Franciso Reyes, Chinandega City's National Opposition Union (UNO) campaign manager, said here yesterday that his group will be defeated in the 25 February elections and that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] will win an overwhelming victory. He is the first UNO leader to concede beforehand Daniel Ortega's victory. Reyes made those remarks following the resignation of 12 UNO council candidates in six Chinandega municipalities.

The UNO campaign manager in one of the country's largest cities, attributed the failure of his group to the large number of persons without moral standing included on its list of candidates. He said that the lists include many smugglers, drunks, and unreliable people. He failed to mention that they include a former Somozist National Guardsman and contras. He added that the chief reason the FSLN will defeat UNO in the February elections is that his coalition has very few honest people, unlike the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCdeN]. The candidates who resigned were running for council in Tonola, Morazan, El Viejo, Corinto, Chichigalpa, and Villa Nueva Municipalities. The resignations came after it was reported that part of the money allocated for campaign activities in Corinto and El Viejo had been unduly appropriated by Francisco Reyes, who reportedly is going to buy a farm with it. In just 2 days of campaign activities in these two municipalities, Reyes reportedly took 50 million cordobas. He also reportedly made another 100 million cordobas, collected from the sale of UNO bonds in Chinandega, "disappear." The persons who resigned also said Reyes never paid them their salaries in dollars, as agreed; he only gave them bonds, "as if we could eat bonds," one of the former candidates said.

The former candidate also implicates in these cases of corruption a group of UNO activists, including [name indistinct], Edwin Moreno, Adolfo Estrada, Rodolfo Pantoja, Eddy Ulloa, and Guadalupe Garcia. Reyes is an avowed admirer of PCdeN President Eli Altamirano, instead of Virgilio Godoy, whom he considers to be an unreliable person with little popularity. The resigning candidates had previously asked for the resignation of Reyes and Antonio Nesme, another UNO member. However, the two men told them to complain in Managua to UNO leaders Antonio Lacayo and Carlos Hurtado.

This correspondent interviewed Reyes to learn the reasons for the resignations. Unexpectedly, Reyes talked of UNO's defeat and of the overwhelming FSLN victory. He, of course, denied the accusations against him by the former candidates. However, UNO's Political Council in Chinandega Department has asked for an investigation on the handling of the funds. The problem of how the funds were handed has become secondary, because Reyes's remarks on the Sandinist victory reflect the sense of defeat that exists within the mixture of parties that make up UNO.

Media Reports Resignation of UNO Candidates

PA2101180390

[Editorial report] Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish on 18 January carries on pages 1 and 8 a 900-word article stating that, with the resignation of 9 UNO [National Opposition Union] candidates in municipal elections in different parts of the country, the coalition has lost 138 candidates. The reasons the article cites for the resignations is that the candidates voiced their "rejection of the UNO leaders' subservient attitude with regard to the U.S. Administration." Former candidate Vemilet Paredes Santelis of Somotillo Municipality, "complained of the abusive way the UNO Somotillo coordinator treats the people." Clementina Taura, resigned as a council candidate in Santo Tomas del Norte Municipality, Chinandega Department, because the local UNO chief registered her name "without my consent." Several of the former candidates whose comments were reported by the newspaper also cited differences with local UNO officials over the handling of funds as the reason for their resignations.

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 19 January carries a 1-minute report stating that Juan Amador Duran, the UNO council candidate in an unidentified municipality resigned, citing that he is a "hard-working man, not a political schemer, of which UNO has plenty." The report concludes by stating that so far, 149 UNO candidates have resigned. "Compounding the differences among UNO leaders over the money that the United States gives them, this situation puts the coalition on the verge of total collapse," it notes.

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 January carries on pages 1 and 8 a 900-word report on the resignation of opposition council candidates. "Just yesterday, the Supreme Electoral Council received a total of 12 resignations—4 from UNO members, 6 from the so-called Multi-Ethnic Youth Movement associated with YATAMA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Indians and Creole Groups Organization], and 2 from PUCA [Central American Unionist Party]," it notes. The report goes on to cite Jose Mari Aragon, former candidate to Bluefields District 5, saying that he resigned "to reject the embezzling of funds" by two local UNO activists. Other former candidates cited in the report also voiced their unhappiness over the way in which campaign funds are managed. Another reason given by former candidate Montiel Garcia was that his group "never spoke against the murder of Msgr Pablo Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Bluefields." The report concludes stating that "so far, 13 candidates have resigned from UNO, 2 from PUCA, and 6 from YATAMA."

Article Lists Reasons for UNO's 'Failure'

PA2101141390 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Jan 90

[Article by Adolfo Miranda Saenz: "Why Did UNO Fail?"]

[Text] At this stage, one can seriously talk about the failure of UNO [National Opposition Union]. The coalition or alliance did not fulfill the expectations that were centered around a supposedly great opposition force that would do battle against the Sandinist Front and have a chance to win the elections. What are the reasons for its failure? It is important to make a brief historical analysis.

UNO had a very bad start from its first the moments with a very heterogeneous mixture of members who range from conservative to communist. It was a political miscalculation to venture and form an alliance that offers neither a clear current nor a specific ideology, which subsequently leads to total confusion with regard to its political orientation. Having political orientation would not only have been good, but necessary if the intention was to form an opposition group and because in Nicaragua, the political currents (liberal, conservative, Social Christian, and Marxist) are very divided. UNO could only hope to unite a few tendencies from each ideological group, but not an entire opposition group.

Another serious mistake UNO made was to have included well-known Somozist and contra figures on its lists of candidates and leaders. The Somozists and the contras are two groups that the Nicaraguan people reject. Even those who oppose the Sandinists reject those two groups. Some people can feel encouraged by and identify with the Somozists and the contras, but the truth is that it would be such a miniscule minority that it is not worth running the risk of losing a larger group of supporters.

The selection of the Violeta-Virgilio ticket was very unfortunate. Perhaps combining either one of them with another person would not have been so bad. For example, Violeta with Enrique Bolanos or Virgilio with [contra leader] Alfredo Cesar. Many names were in the balance, including names of politicians, businessmen, and experts. Perhaps, the best presidential ticket would have been that of two intelligent persons who did not have a political party background and who followed a clear rightist line. The best UNO presidential ticket could have been the one formed by Bolanos and Francisco Mayorga.

At this stage, no one questions the incompetence and inability of Mrs Violeta nor how very unlikeable Virgilio Godoy is or how unable he is to inspire people to vote for them. The combination of the two is terrible.

The UNO ticket does not encourage anyone (perhaps only a few) to become admirers or followers. People follow the UNO presidential candidates and will vote for them not so much because they like them, but because they want to vote against the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. In other words, UNO will receive "votes of punishment" against the opponent, but not votes obtained "because people like UNO." That situation raises another problem for UNO. If the other negative aspects of UNO are taken into account, in the end, many will choose to vote for an opposition party that offers a clearer, more specific position than that of UNO.

Although it is not such a determining factor, UNO's decision to set itself up as an absolute judge of what is good and bad and to authorize itself to disqualify all political parties that are not subordinated to it, has had a negative effect on the UNO campaign. That position, which is dictatorial and goes against democracy, pluralism, and other people's rights, is frowned upon by a sector of the population, which realizes that UNO is adopting the same attitude it claims to fight.

Regardless of how anti-Sandinist the opposition is, most of its members are not pleased with a total alignment with the U.S. Government. UNO has stated that it is a force created and sponsored by the United States and that it is committed to the United States through and through.

It would have been wiser if UNO had kept a moderate distance from the Yankees. UNO, however, failed to do that.

When a political force joins an election campaign, it must know how to present the things for which it stands. In other words, it must clearly state its political program and its position concerning every sector's interests, among other things. UNO has not had a political campaign that is "pro" anything. It has only had an "anti" something campaign. It has conducted an anti-Sandinist campaign. That kind of campaign allows many people to let off steam, but it neither convinces nor wins over most of the voters.

Going back to UNO's alignment with the Yankees, it is clear that UNO is being held together only by the strength of the Yankees. There are so many internal conflicts and so much rivalry within UNO and so many of its candidates have withdrawn from the elections that the only image UNO presents is of total instability. If that is so now that UNO is the opposition, how would it be if it becomes the government? Many wonder about that and many have been disappointed by UNO.

No one believes that UNO has not received dollars from the United States "under the table." Where is that money? The salaries published by EL NUEVO DIARIO are only a tiny part of it. In addition, the UNO campaign is so very unattractive, so bleak, so paced and dull that it does not show that any Yankee dollars have been invested in it. That not only disappoints people, but also makes them question the honesty of UNO's team.

This is a very superficial study of the problem. It would be worthwhile to conduct a more in-depth study, but I believe this article is enough to encourage people to discuss and study this political phenomenon.

There is another element, perhaps the most important one. That element is the Sandinists' intelligence in admitting and rectifying their mistakes and in calling all Nicaraguans to join the efforts for national unity, peace, and reconstruction. The Sandinists have conducted the most brilliant, pleasant, and efficient political campaign in Central American history. The Sandinists have been intelligent enough to get the support of youths. Above all, there is also Daniel Ortega's doubtless charisma and the good presidential ticket that Daniel and Sergio form.

The Sandinists have been able to account for and give new orientation to factors that otherwise could have been harmful for the Sandinists, such as the bad economic situation of the Patriotic Military Service. Meanwhile, UNO was unable to take advantage of those factors.

At this stage, UNO has missed its opportunity. It will have to wait 6 years until the next elections. Now, it will be interesting to see the conformation of the National Assembly and to see who will be the deputies and representatives who will face the Sandinists in the Assembly. As I said in a previous article, many people who supported UNO are now thinking about voting for other opposition parties, which they feel will do a better job in the National Assembly and the municipal councils.

The Yankees made a mistake. A better option for them would have been to form a group consisting of three or four rightist parties with candidates such as those I mentioned before and with a clear political line and a completely well-defined rightist political program. The Yankees would have obtained much better results with such a group than with the increasingly battered UNO.

We should now wonder whether UNO will know how to accept its failure, its election defeat, or whether it will allege fraud? That is a real danger that could lead the country to dangerous provocations promoted by those who do not accept their defeat.

Media Reports on Funding for Political Parties

PA2101232490

[Editorial report] Nicaraguan media have carried several reports over the period from 12 to 20 January on funding that has been provided for political parties that are scheduled to participate in the upcoming national elections in February.

Managua Radio Catolica on 12 January carried a live telephone call from Luis Sanchez Sancho, press chief of the National Opposition Union, UNO, who was asked about the organization's financial situation. Sanchez said he had learned that funds sent to UNO from abroad had been deposited in the Nicaraguan Central Bank but that release of these funds had not been authorized by the minister of foreign cooperation.

Sanchez said he had pointed out to Elliot Richardson, the UN secretary general's personal representative to observe the Nicaraguan elections, that the withholding of these funds "seriously undermines the credibility of the electoral process." Sanchez described this as an "absolute failure by the Sandinists to fulfill their commitments" and an indication of the Sandinists' intention to commit fraud in the elections.

In contrast, Managua BARRICADA reported on 19 January that the Nicaraguan Central Bank had advanced to UNO and the Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction large sums of money that were deposited into the two organizations' accounts, though the deposited checks had not yet cleared. The report added that this "unusual" action had been taken because of a special decision by the government, which "ordered the Central Bank to make those disbursements." The report cited a Central Bank communique which claims that under the circumstances, these payments actually constitute an interest-free loan.

In addition, a BARRICADA editorial on 20 January dismissed UNO's protests about the alleged withholding of its funds. The editorial maintained that the UNO's claims of an "alleged disadvantage" in the electoral contest is a "double lie": First, because the UNO is not as poor as it claims to be, and second, because it could not win the elections no matter how many millions of dollars it received.

The editorial maintained that between 1984 and 1989, the UNO received $30 million, and has received $7 million more so far this year. It stated that the "logistical, propaganda, and organizational impact of close to $40 million dollars" could not go unnoticed, even in the United States.

Also on 20 January, BARRICADA reported that the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, on 19 January began distribution of the 7,141,918,000 cordobas that it has budgeted for financing the electoral campaigns of parties that have registered candidates for councilmen. The report cited CSE secretary Rosa Marina Zelaya as saying that funds will be distributed "in proportion to the number of candidates presented by each party and the percentage of votes obtained in the past elections." The report added that thus, the Sandinist National Liberation Front will receive 3.656 billion cordobas, for having obtaind 62.9 percent of the votes in the 1984 elections and for having 895 candidates for councilmen, and an equal number of candidates for alternate councilmen.

The report added that the "divided" National Opposition Union, UNO, which did not participate in the elections but includes three parties that did, will receive 1.356 billion cordobas, because "in addition, it did not register the required number of candidates, 140 of its candidates have resigned, and it has 97 blank boxes on its ticket."

The report listed the distribution of funds to other parties as follows: Central American Unionist Party, 684 million cordobas; Social Christian Alliance [Alianza Social Cristiana, ASC], made up of the Popular Social Christian Party and the Social Christian Party only for

municipal council elections, 590 million cordobas; the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, 360.96 million cordobas; the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement, 146 million; the Movement of Revolutionary Unity, 135 million; the Independent Liberal Party of National Unity, 120 million; the Revolutionary Workers Party, 54 million; and the PSOC [not further identified], 36 million.

UN Observer Certifies Clean Election Process

PA2101151690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] In his second visit to the country, the personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Elliot Richardson, a former U.S. attorney general, has ratified that the elections process is going well by certifying, above all, the efforts of the Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist Front to allow the elections to take place in a clean, just, clear, and normal fashion.

The report by Richardson, who cannot be accused of being pro-Sandinist, evaluates the facts. Most of the complaints about "flagrant violations" of the Electoral Law presented to the UN Observers Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua [ONUVEN] by some political parties have been discarded.

Richardson has acknowledged that it is impossible to exert absolute control over everything and that small problems that have emerged will not produce the "serious anomalies" the right has been denouncing and would like to see to have a pretext for ignoring the elections results. The fact is that the attacks that the counterrevolutionaries carry out to intimidate the civilian population and disrupt the elections represent the gravest actions that have taken place against the election process.

The 39 days before election day on 25 February could pass in a normal public order situation and within the framework of full respect for electoral ethics and the people's right to vote thanks to the commitment the political parties have to behave properly to prevent violent incidents like the one that leaders of the National Opposition Union promoted a month ago in Matcare.

The Sandinist Police have been playing a most important role in safeguarding the guarantees offered by the Constitution and the Electoral Law during election campaign time, a fact that has been acknowledged by Mr Richardson and the contending parties, although not by UNO Vice Presidential Candidate Virgilio Godoy, who continues to describe the Sandinist Police as "repressive" despite the fact that this institution has made evident it is at the level of the demands for moderation and prudence that are adequate at this moment.

In its first October 1989 report, ONUVEN stated that one of the most positive characteristics of the current elections process is the impartiality and openness of mind demonstrated by the Supreme Electoral Council. Mr Richardson's report definitely invalidates the propaganda by the right and its media about alleged "obstacles" the Nicaraguan Government has been placing to justify boycotting the elections.

This acknowledgment destroys propagandistic statements by people in and out of the country who are still interested in tarnishing the clear work of the state as the main guarantor of the elections, an effort that will be ratified in a timely manner by the international community in February.

Poll Results Given; CSE To Regulate Polls

PA2101163990

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on election polls in Nicaragua and the Supreme Electoral Council's (CSE) decision to regulate this activity. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

The Costa Rican firm, Borge and Associates, was hired by LA PRENSA S.A. to carry our four opinion polls between June 1989 and February 1990, at a cost of $80,000. The third poll gave results up to 31 December and, although the firm filled the questionaire with personal questions, results were so unfavorable for UNO [National Opposition Union] and Violeta Barrios that the newspaper LA PRENSA has not reported them. Trustworthy sources have reported that the poll indicated that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] would win the elections with 42.7 percent of the votes and that the pro-U.S. alliance would obtain 31.5 percent. Borge and Associates conducted the poll in 88 neighborhoods of Chontales, Leon, Managua, Chinandega, Boaco, Jinotega, and Matagalpa. The poll was held from 29 December to 5 January and had a sampling of 2,000 persons. It was reported that Borge and Associates accused the poll's field team of being "infiltrated by the Sandinists" when the poll's results were seen. [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Jan 90, pp 1, 8]

The latest Nicaraguan Public Opinion Institute (INOC) poll indicates that persons who favor the FSLN in the upcoming elections have increased and that those favoring UNO have remained the same. The previous poll indicated that the FSLN would win 44 percent of the votes and UNO would win 27 percent. Full details of the INOC poll will be given on 24 January. However, sources reported that the survey showed that housewives—a sector that has suffered greatly from the economic crisis—would vote for the FSLN and that the young people have given their whole-hearted backing to Sandinism. Concerning the other parties, the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] was in third place, the Social Christians in fourth, and the Democratic Conservatives in the fifth. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 90]

Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) sources reported that work done by firms who conduct public opinion polls will be regulated as of 20 January. A seminar held at the Camino Real hotel showed that many of these firms get

the results they want as they manipulate the information. Recently, the Central American Unionist Party denounced that the Costa Rican firm, DEMOS S.A., had manipulated the polls it reported. Thus, the CSE decided to put an end to this irregularity by regulating the activity. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 90]

Foreign, Local Polls Differ

PA1901233290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Jan (DPA)—A dozen polls conducted in Nicaragua in the past few months have revealed contradictory results. While those conducted by foreign organizations have National Opposition Union [UNO] candidate Violeta Chamorro leading, those conducted by local agencies show Daniel Ortega leading.

Local polls show that more and more voters are leaning toward Ortega in the 25 February elections and that Chamorro is gradually losing ground. Foreign polls show the same, but in favor of Chamorro.

The results of two polls were announced in Managua today. According to one of them, exclusively for women and conducted by The Research and People's Education Center, "Cezontle," 47 percent of the 1200 people polled last month favor Ortega, and 11 percent favor Chamorro. The remaining 42 percent is shared by the six other presidential candidates.

According to the poll conducted by the Venezuela Public Opinion Institute, whose results have been announced in Managua, 36 percent of those polled would vote for Chamorro and 25 percent would vote for Ortega.

The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has remained out of the polls, sources have said, but the media has been publishing the various results in accordance with the interests of the political sectors.

An independent poll shows a political polarization and that the struggle has narrowed between the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the UNO. The latter is made up by 14 parties of various ideologies which receive aid from the United States.

Costa Rican Poll Results

PA2001033290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1835 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (AFP)—According to a poll conducted by Borge and Associates, a Costa Rican firm, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, presidential candidate for the National Opposition Union (UNO), seemingly lost ground among the Nicaraguan voters during the last month, thus favoring President Daniel Ortega's reelection.

The poll results at the end of December, done at the request of the conservative newspaper LA PRENSA, were published today by the pro-government EL NUEVO DIARIO newspaper, which said it had obtained the information from "reliable sources."

The poll indicates that 31.6 percent of the people interviewed intend to vote for Ortega, 28.9 percent for Barrios de Chamorro, 3.4 percent for other candidates, and 36.2 percent are undecided.

The ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), according to the information, will win the 25 February elections with 42.7 percent of the votes, while UNO will obtain 31.5 percent—figures that contrast with those obtained from the same consulting firm in October.

At the time, Borge and Associates gave Ortega 17.9 percent and Barrios de Chamorro 44 percent. Therefore, the results just obtained represent "a significant step backward" for UNO, according to EL NUEVO DIARIO.

Venezuelan Poll Results

PA1901231290 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Report by Osvaldo Bonilla]

[Text] According to a Venezuelan poll, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has an advantage over Daniel Ortega. A poll conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion [Instituto de Opinion Publica] [words indistinct], shows that Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, presidential candidate for the National Opposition Union [UNO], is ahead of Daniel Ortega, candidate for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]—based on preference expressed by citizens regarding the 25 February.

The unpublished document was delivered to United Press International and is entitled: Public Opinion Study in the Republic of Nicaragua. To summarize, we report that the poll was conducted throughout Nicaragua except in Zelaya Department, or in other words, not in the north, central, or South Atlantic coast areas. The gap between Mrs Barrios and Ortega has closed in the past few days. The ruling party is conducting a heavy propaganda campaign using all available media, while UNO and other parties are limited regarding television, radio stations and newspapers. Mrs Chamorro is the editor of the opposition LA PRENSA newspaper which has, for all intent and purposes, become UNO's mouthpiece. According to analysts, LA PRENSA is not sufficient in countering the government publicity machine.

The samplings show that 84 percent of the citizens plan to vote and 4 percent do not. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has a following of 36 percent and Ortega 25 percent. The report shows that Nicaragua's main problems, according to the citizens, are the economy, the war, the Sandinist government, and the United States. On Ortega's accomplishments, 36 percent said that they are unhappy, 9 percent said they were very pleased, 30 percent want a change in govenrment, and 46 percent

want the civil war to end. Twenty-nine percent blame the United States for the country's crisis, and 40 percent blame the Sandinists.

On the subjects of national reconciliation, economic reconstruction, and obtaining foreign aid, 42 percent believe that Mrs Barrios de Chamorro would do a better job, while 27 percent believe that Ortega would. Seventy-seven percent of the citizens disapproved of the Army renewing offensive actions to fight the contras, while 26 percent favored a renewed offensive. Forty-two percent of those polled were against the United States financing the UNO elections, while 38 percent approved. When asked if the UNO was an instrument of the United States, 39 percent replied yes, 38 replied no; however, 49 percent of those polled felt the opposition coalition has many internal conflicts, while 24 percent said no.

According to the poll, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has an advantage over Daniel Ortega in the upcoming presidential elections.

Contras Reportedly Arrive To Boycott Elections

PA2101222190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Between 1,500 and 1,700 contras entered northern Nicaragua from Honduran territory recently to boycott the elections, Colonel Leonel Salvatierra, head of the 6th Military Region, reported in Matagalpa.

He said the terrorists' plans include kidnapping 300 peasants, stepping up sabotage of production centers, and killing civilians. Salvatierra said the mercenaries have killed 17 active members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], including Tomas Salgado. The officer recalled that the terrorists recently attempted to destroy the regional warehouse of the National Enterprise for Staple Foods [ENABAS] located between Cebaco and San Isidro, Matagalpa.

The commmanders of the 5th and 6th military regions have reported that approximately 3,000 contras have infiltrated Nicaragua from Honduras.

USSR-Donated Rice Arrives at San Juan del Sur

PA2101222390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] authorities have stated that 7,500 metric tons of rice donated by the Soviet Government arrived in the country through the port of San Juan del Sur. The donation will be used for the distribution of AFA [rice, beans, and sugar] packages among the people in Regions 2, 3, and 4 over the next 3 months.

The Soviet Government will donate 25,000 metric tons of rice this year. ENABAS officials said 10,000 metric tons of rice are expected to arrive in the country during the 1st 3 months of 1990.

Panama

Demonstrations at Peruvian Embassy 'Intensified'

PA2001013390 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2325 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Protests by Panamanian citizens around the Peruvian Embassy grounds have intensified in the past few hours, increasing tension.

President Guillermo Endara has announced that his government will not grant safe conduct to Manuel Antonio Noriega's close associates, who have sought refuge at the Peruvian Embassy. Endara has said that safe conduct will not be given to criminals and common offenders.

Twelve people have sought refuge at the Peruvian Embassy, including Gonzalo Gonzalez, exsecurity chief for Noriega; Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, exspokesman for the Panama Defense Forces; Heraclides Sucre, reportedly involved in the death of Moises Giroldi, who headed a foiled coup attempt; and Marcela Tason, Noriega's private secretary.

Demonstrations have increased to pressure Peruvian officials into handing over the people in the embassy to the Panamanian Government so they can be tried for their crimes. A Peruvian Embassy official, identified as Diego Alvarado, was seen this afternoon carrying containers with food to prepare lunch. He was also carrying documents into the embassy, which is being watched by Public Force members and U.S. soldiers.

Residents of nearby buildings and people from other areas continue to bang pots and pans at all times to apply psychological pressure on the Panamanians in the embassy. A Peruvian residing in Panama held a placard with an eloquent message criticizing Peruvian President Alan Garcia's stand.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We think our president will have to reconsider this immoral, irresponsible measure. He has granted protection to five common criminals, whose crimes are defined by Panamanian law. These people must leave the embassy. The Peruvian people are supporting this embassy at the price of their hunger. These criminals are being fed by the Peruvian people. This is unfair. [end recording]

Endara Plans Costa Rican, U.S. Visits

PA1901145590 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1206 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has announced that he will travel to Costa Rica on 22 January to meet with his colleague Oscar Arias Sanchez. This will be his first official trip since he assumed office on 20 December. Endara also said that he will probably travel to the United States later this month to ask for emergency economic aid to confront the problems posed by the serious damage experienced following the U.S.

military invasion. The Panamanian president will travel to Costa Rica following a friendly invitation by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. He will be in that country for 24 hours.

Endara Says U.S. Aid 'Yet To Be Seen'

PA2101190290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara yesterday said that his government "has yet to see" the arrival of U.S. aid, 1 month after the intervention of U.S. troops in this country.

The chief executive maintained that U.S. leaders and people "must realize that all the troubles faced and efforts made by U.S. and Panamanian people in this struggle would end up in the garbage can should Panama fail to receive the aid that it needs to revive the economy."

Endara expressed optimism that U.S. aid will ultimately arrive, however he said, we must wait a few more days. The Panamanian Government requested $1.5 billion from Washington to revive its devastated economy.

The president did not rule out the possibility of establishing relations with the USSR. He added that during a Latin American presidential summit, which took place in October in Costa Rica, he exchanged views on "interesting" issues with the Soviet ambassador, including the possibility of strenghtening ties with that country as soon as Panama became a democracy.

Endara confirmed his plans to visit the United States in the near future and announced that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle will visit Panama toward the end of next week. Endara believes the visit will give the vice president a first-hand opportunity to gauge the needs of the Panamanian people.

Guillermo Endara also dismissed comments abroad concerning the way he reached the Presidency of Panama by pointing out that "in Latin America there is no ruler with a stronger popular mandate and greater legitimacy" than he has.

Endara claims to have won the 1989 elections with 70 percent of the total votes cast despite all the obstacles faced by his candidacy.

Uncertainty Over U.S. Aid Causes Unease

PA1501012290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—It has been 3 weeks since the U.S. invasion and one week since General Manuel Antonio Noriega surrendered to U.S. justice. Now, Panama begins to live a relatively normal situation and the government waits for a "shower of dollars" to be used to reconstruct the country—but it does not arrive.

Until now, Guillermo Endara's government has centered its actions on two priorities: the formation of a new public force and requests for international support, especially from the United States, for the immediate economic needs and the reconstruction of the country that for the past 2 ½ years has lived through one of the worst crises in its history.

On 9 January, Endara sent a "personal letter" to U.S. President George Bush asking for $1.5 billion to finance ambitious projects geared toward reactivating economic activity and the creation of jobs during the present year.

The government has also requested aid from the European community, Japan, and the main international financial institutions.

However, up to now, the calls do not seem to be yielding concrete results and Endara himself showed impatience on 9 January, when he told the press that the "Panamanian people would be very disappointed if aid does not materialize."

It has even prompted the first widely circulated political joke in Panama. It says Endara already has a stiff neck from looking at the sky so much to see if "the shower of dollars" is coming.

Endara's government stated that the public coffers had only $70 million in liquid reserves when they found it and that this amount barely covers the wages that have to be paid this month.

The new government has already received $140 million of the Panamanian money that had been retained by the United States as part of the sanctions against Noriega's regime. Efforts are being made to speed the return of the remaining $235 million.

First Panamananian Vice President Guillermo Ford [as received], who heads the government's economic team as planning minister, has invited organizations such as the IMF to send delegations to Panama to be briefed on the official reconstruction plan and to study possible lines of credit.

Panama was labelled "not eligible" for new credit because of delays in its foreign debt payments, calculated to be approximately $5 billion ($250 per capita.) However, bankers assert that it is not enough to state that the crisis is over because Noriega was ousted, as this does not change the situation.

An Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) official stated in Washington this week that there will be no new credit for Panama until "some type of payment" on the pending debt is made.

A Latin American banker has told ACAN-EFE in Panama that the government's reconstruction plan is "naive," because it is based "on promises of uncertain international aid."

The "shower of dollars" is expected not only by Endara's government, but by most Panamanians, who applauded the U.S. military intervention and which many said had been a "liberation." Now, however, they start to feel uneasy with the sluggishness and difficulties in getting the reconstruction phase off the ground.

U.S. congressmen that have visited Panama over the past few days, among them Democrat Gerry Studds, warned that the United States will not be able to give all the aid required for reconstruction.

"We should be able to give medical supplies, food, and other basic needs. More than this, however, will be limited," said Studds after listening to the avalanche of petitions for aid presented by Panamanian public officials and businessmen.

The prediction made by Endara to ACAN-EFE on the eve of the 7 May elections could come true. He said that if a U.S. intervention occurred, Panamanians would first applaud the U.S. soldiers, but a few months later would be "throwing stones at them."

A true war of communiques between businessmen and insurance companies continues. The debate is about whether insurance companies should pay business firms for their losses in the generalized looting that took place during the days that followed the invasion. It is estimated that the losses amounted to $1.5 billion.

According to businessmen, approximately 15,000 Panamanians will lose their jobs—and will add themselves to the 200,000 that were left jobless during the crisis of previous years—if insurance companies, alleging the exception of a "war situation," do not honor insurance claims.

The U.S. Administration also refuses to accept any responsibility for losses caused by looting.

Economic uncertainty, however, is not an obstacle for Panama to recover slowly and get into a normal rhythm of life.

The looted stores are opening their doors, public administration offices have started to operate, members of the new Public Force are seen in the streets, people have started going to bars and restaurants, and each day a street that had been barricaded and fenced off by U.S. soldiers is reopened to traffic.

The state lottery, the Panamanians' main "sport", held its first drawing on 10 January and the race tracks opened today. These are two symbols of how the situation is increasingly getting back to normal.

Gradually, the 14,000 U.S. soldiers, who—together with the 12,000 soldiers permanently stationed at the Panama Canal bases—invaded Panama, are returning to the United States.

Most of the soldiers and officials of the previous Panamanian regime, who had been arrested at these bases, have been released.

A Southern Command spokesman reported to ACAN-EFE today that of the approximately 5,000 persons arrested in the days that followed the 20 December invasion, "less than 300" remain in U.S. custody.

Arias Calderon Explains Status of Prisoners

PA1901012590 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has stated that approximately 150 Panamanian soldiers and civilians who supported the past dictatorial regime are still being held at U.S. installations.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] This situation is the result of two circumstances. One is that Panama lacks jails. As the Panamanian penitentiary system is reestablished, Panamanian detainees will be transferred to Panamanian prisons. The second circumstance is that the Panamanian judicial system is being reestablished, but it is not yet fully functional.

I can tell you that the system is beginning to function almost normally. I have already seen six or seven cases of habeas corpus that have been presented to the government and justice minister. I had to say that the parties involved were not at the disposal of the government and justice minister but at the disposal of the attorney general and that it is he who has to respond.

I hope the detainees will be completely under Panamanian jurisdiction in less than 1 week. [end recording]

Arias Views Former President, Medical Facilities

PA1801224590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 12a

[Report by Ricardo Laviery]

[Text] Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president and government and justice minister, has said that former President Manuel Solis Palma has a guilty conscience and seems to fear justice, because one who is innocent is usually not afraid.

Solis Palma, who was minister in charge of the presidency after the dismissal of President Delvalle in February 1988 until 1 September 1989, has been summoned on two occasions by the attorney general to face a suit filed against him for "obstructing the formation, operation, and renewal of state branches."

The former minister took refuge on 14 January at the Venezuelan Embassy. However, according to Arias Calderon, "he has not been harrassed and no warrant for his arrest has been issued."

As for the possible decision of the Government of Reconstruction and Reconciliation regarding Solis Palma, Arias Calderon said if the attorney general advises that an individual is facing charges and cannot leave the country, the executive branch will note that fact and act accordingly.

The Christian Democratic Party leader, who made these statements to LA PRENSA moments before a mass at the refugee camp in El Chorrillo, also commented on other important political issues in the country.

He said a watchful attitude and a civilian defense group working along with the new Public Force could be the guarantee that we will be able to face any action aimed at disturbing the country's normalization. Arias Calderon added that "there is so much determination to reconstruct the country that this task will absorb all the energy of the Panamanian people."

As for the possibility that remaining Noriegists might be infiltrated in the new organization that replaced the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], Arias Calderon said the Public Force, its leadership, and a majority of its members have realized that the country demands a radical change in this aspect. He also reaffirmed that "the country does not want a militarized institution, but an institution that will guarantee respect for human rights."

When asked by this newspaper about the destruction of medical facilities that had belonged to the FDP, Arias Calderon made assurances that his ministry was very concerned about what happened with the Santo Tomas Hospital's Victoriano Lorenzo Military Pavillion. He added that the incident there prompted him to meet with Social Security Fund Director Jorge Endara Paniza, with whom he agreed that the Public Force medical facilities would remain as they are for the time being, until there is a meeting between the Ministries of Health and Government and Justice, the Social Security Fund, and Public Force, so as to ensure that "the transfer of those medical facilities to the civilian sector is implemented without causing any destruction and they are thus placed at the disposal of our people."

"When such transfers take place without the proper coordination, the result is their dismantlement, and that is neither good for God nor the devil," the vice president and government and justice minister said.

President Endara Says OAS 'Total Failure'

PA2101035490 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Panama City, 20 Jan (AFP)—President Guillermo Endara today said the OAS has "totally failed" in Latin America and characterized the countries of this continent that have failed to recognize his government as not too "brotherly or fraternal."

During an interview today on his first 30 days in power following the U.S. intervention that overthrew General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Endara told AFP: "I do not see the OAS playing any role. It is a total failure."

Around the middle of last year, an OAS mission headed by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez unsuccessfully tried to mediate in the Panamanian crisis and Endara accused Cordovez of being afraid of Gen. Noriega and of being a "terrible mediator."

Referring to the decision of several Latin American governments not to recognize his government, Endara said: "They have not been very brotherly or fraternal." "I am not worried about that," he added. Endara said that in the next few weeks he will be going to the United States to meet with President George Bush.

Endara was sworn in at Fort Clayton—a U.S. military base in Panama—on 20 December at the onset of the U.S. intervention in his country.

The Panamanian president rejected holding a plebiscite or new elections "to legitimize his government," because "no government has a clearer mandate and more legitimacy than ours," he said. "We have not asked any chief of state to hold new elections. No one challenged Alan Garcia's election. He won with 56 percent of the vote." Endara said this in referring to the president of Peru, who has said he will not recognize the new Panamanian Government until U.S. soldiers withdraw from Panama.

Endara, who will visit Costa Rica on Monday, his first official visit abroad, said the Panamanian people elected him on 7 May "with 70 percent of the vote." He asked: "Why is my legitimacy being challenged?"

With regard to diplomatic conflicts with Peru, which culminated with the expulsion of Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Luis Sandiga, Endara said they were "unfortunate incidents."

Peru has granted asylum to 12 Noriega collaborators who sought refuge at the Peruvian Embassy in the Panamanian capital, including Majors Edgardo Lopez, Gonzalo Gonzalez, and Heraclides Sucre and Captain Marcela Tazon.

The Panamanian president, who announced that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle will visit Panama on 27 January, noted: "Regarding Peru and Panama, the most suitable position would be for both to stop irritating each other."

Costa Rica's Arias Supports Abolishing Army

PA1401233790 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Interview with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez by unidentified reporter, in San Jose, Costa Rica, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias] We must first remember that what has happened in Panama is something all Latin Americans regret—that the crisis the Panamanian people had been experiencing for many years had to be settled by the use of force. However, that came about due to the impossibility of installing democracy in Panama by respecting the will of the Panamanian people as expressed on 7 May. We must also greatly regret that diplomacy failed once again at the OAS to find a negotiated and diplomatic solution to the Panamanian crisis.

If we are able to take advantage of the installation of a new government, which was elected on 7 May by over 70 percent of the people of Panama, to begin a new path toward a firm, strong, consolidated, and participative democracy and we can bury in Panama the vices of the past decades, I think that what took place in Panama will greatly contribute toward the peace process in the rest of Central America. I took it upon myself to send a letter to the people of Panama to ask them to find the vision, imagination, and courage to end once and for all—as Costa Rica did 41 years ago—the Panamanian army. In Panama, the important thing is not to merely change the name of the army. It is important is to change the mentality of those who wear the olive green uniform. It is important to build a new Panama where reason always prevails over force, instead of force over reason—which is what has happened over the past few years.

It is important to continue the course Costa Rica began 41 years ago, when our political constitution abolished and banned the army as a permanent institution. To replace it we created a police force just to protect Costa Rican society. It can be argued that the army is needed to protect the Panama Canal. To that I say that it is most important to take advantage of the crisis the Panamanian people endured to end an army that is not necessarily the most adequate institution to protect that Canal, as we can image an inter-American force to protect that canal, which belongs to the Panamanian people and the rest of America.

Therefore, if we take advantage of this crisis, which has filled us with sorrow because it became necessary to resort to violence and weapons, and if we take advantage of it well, I think the consolidation of a new democracy in Panama will greatly serve to accelerate the peace process so it can succeed, as all Central Americans want it to.

[Reporter] This is a personal question. After such a successful presidency, after so many achievements that have earned world recognition, you, a very active person with so many ideas, complete your mandate in a few months, in keeping with the Costa Rican democratic process. What are your plans for later?

[Arias] I have been invited to Harvard University in the United States. If I manage to convince my children to accept this nice offer, I would like go back to academic life, which, after all, is where I come from, so I can again have time to read, write, and teach, and share with young people the experience I gained during these 4 years as president of Costa Rica. I would also like to become another citizen, struggling for peace all over the world. I think the nineties, which have just begun, have to be the decade where the world finds itself again and we must return to a new phase of cooperation, brotherhood, and solidarity, and bury forever the era of provocation, which has prevailed during the 9 decades of the 20th century.

I think a beautiful phase is beginning for mankind, and we must take advantage of it. I hope to God collective security prevails and the major powers do not want to solve regional conflicts through force, violence, and arms. However, I think regional conflicts will still exist in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, here in Central America, and in South Africa, even in Europe these can be expected, and even in the Soviet Union. Therefore, I would like to become most of all a Third World citizen to help all men of good will, who, like Christ did 2,000 years ago, have always wanted peace to reign throughout the world in which we live.

Former Vice President Criticizes New Government

PA1301003390 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Telephone statement by Gerardo Gonzalez, former Vice President and leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Thanks to Radio Havana for this opportunity to clarify some of the things that have occurred in our country over the past few hours.

Just as our party has reported over the past 2 years, the United States required and has imposed a docile government in Panama. The first thing that this government did was to be sworn in at a U.S. military base. Yesterday, this government said it would negotiate the U.S. military presence in Panama after the year 2000. In other words, Panama would let the United States have military bases beyond the year 2000, contrary to the spirit of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which is a program to decolonize and end the military occupation of Panama and which is scheduled to be fulfilled in its entirety on 31 December 1999.

In addition, yesterday Vice President Guillermo Ford made horrifying statements. He proposed handing over the state enterprises, those created by the Torrijist process, to the oligarchy. The government will put up for public auction Cemento Bayano, a corporation fully paid

for since 1987 and much more efficient than a private corporation operating in Panama. Cemento Bayano produces a ton of cement with 21 gallons of bunker oil. The private corporation requires 51 gallons of bunker oil to produce a ton of cement. This indicates that Cemento Bayano is more efficient. Something similar has happened with the La Victoria sugar mill, Panama's most efficient sugar mill. The recent frost in Louisiana and Florida will result in a higher price for sugar on the U.S. market, but it is precisely now that the private enterprise intends to take over these public properties. In addition, the government intends to hand over IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications] and internationalize the ports as a preparatory step to handing over the canal, which should revert to Panama, to transnational corporations.

I am reporting this to the Latin American countries that attended the ceremony in which the treaties were signed. I am particularly reporting this to the Panamanian people, so they can preserve the patriotic legacy that Torrijos left.

Leftist Leader Accuses U.S. of Imposing Oligarchy

PA1801221490 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1237 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday Ramiro Vasquez Chambonnet, Noriega's closest leftist ideologist, accused the U.S. Government of imposing on the country an oligarchic government that is linked to the financial system and is part of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party's extreme rightist sector.

Vasquez Chambonnet wrote a public letter in which he stated he is obliged to act clandestinely, as he is one of the many persons politically persecuted by the new democratic regime of the oligarchy and the liberating U.S. Army's intelligence. Vasquez, who is also a top PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] leader and a well-known local communist, stated that "the aggression to which we have been subjected since 20 December does not have any antecedents in Latin American history." Vasquez also maintained that the invading troops used massive extermination techniques to produce panic and terror in the Panamanian fighters and the remaining Armed Forces distributed over the rest of the country.

'Secret Funds' of Former Presidents Revealed

PA1401214890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Eight former presidents of the previous Panamanian regime handled "secret state funds" of over 36 million balboas, which were disbursed without records to indicate how they were spent, Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles charged yesterday. Carles said that since 1968, when the military toppled President Arnulfo Arias, there was a change in course in "sound fiscal administration at the Presidency and the National Guard's General Command with the creation of funds, to be personally handled by the persons occupying those positions, that were beyond any official control or check."

The comptroller explained that those funds, which generally exceeded 100,000 balboas per month, were disbursed in cash "without any record or receipt to justify the expenditure." According to Carles, the individuals who occupied the post of president, from 1972 to December 1989 received the following sums: Aristides Royos, 17,017,036.17 balboas; Demetrio Lakas 8,320,466.11 balboas; Ricardo de la Espriella, 3,298,385.96 balboas; Jorge Illueca, 1,641,893.28 balboas; Nicolas Ardito Barletta, 1,524,245.86 balboas; Eric Arturo Delvalle, 2,914,384.50 balboas; Manuel Solis Palma, 1,410,000.00 balboas; and Francisco Rodriguez, 410,000.00 balboas.

The comptrollers' office did not give details on the confidential funds handled by military commanders Omar Torrijos, Florencio Florez, Ruben Dario Pardes, and Manuel Antonio Noriega. Carles disclosed that before 1972, payments were made to the Presidency in an "unspecified" manner, charged to different entries of the national budget that were never accounted for, although the "justification" given was that those funds were earmarked for the expenses and programs of the Executive Branch. The comptroller announced that President Guillermo Endara has ordered the suspension of all direct contributions, by check or in cash, forwarded by entities such as the national lottery, President Remon Racetracks, the national casinos, bingo, and other sources.

Delvalle Explains Handling of Presidential Funds

PA2201044190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 90 pp A1, A8

[Letter from former President Eric Arturo Delvalle to Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles Jr.—dated in Miami on 16 January]

[Text] On 14 January, all of the Panamanian newspapers carried your statement saying that the president has had $100,000 a month at his disposal since 1972 and that cash disbursements were generally made with no voucher or receipt supporting the cash outlays.

The general budget included the funds, now being described as confidential or special, allocated for the Presidency. Nevertheless, an item that has been debated three times at the Legislative Assembly and of which all of the Panamanian people are aware can hardly be considered confidential.

I hereby flatly deny that this matter was mishandled during my mandate. Such matters were handled with all propriety. Vouchers were prepared for nearly all of the disbursements. In the absence of vouchers, the canceled checks served well for the same purpose. I must point out that the signatures of two officials were required for

every withdrawal. In addition, the name of the recipient of every check and the reason for the cash outlay can be verified. All of these documents can be found at the secretary's office because they were not private, much less "confidential."

For your information and that of the people in general, I will point out the main uses for which these funds were used.

A. Paying for salaries and the professional services of officials of the Presidency. This was the largest portion.

B. Contributing to various works carried out by legislators in their communities.

C. Giving direct assistance in the construction or repair of parks, health centers, churches, schools, sidewalks, ballparks, and many other social works.

D. Contributing to national fairs.

E. Contributing to charity works.

F. Paying for the expenses incurred by government delegations to the United Nations, Israel, the Vatican, and the Group of Eight meeting in Mexico City.

G. Defraying the expenses incurred by the delegation representing Panama at the inaugurals of the presidents of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic.

H. Paying for gifts given to distinguished personalities who visited Panama.

I. Assisting sports delegations.

J. Paying for extra-budgetary expenses of various ministries.

K. Assisting the Presidency's security personnel, as well as those of the Public Relations Office, and paying for official advertisements.

L. Paying for credit accounts at local businesses that were outstanding from previous administrations.

M. Assisting primary and secondary schools in Panama City and the interior in the purchase of uniforms, music equipment, etc.

I hereby take the opportunity to congratulate you for your appointment, from which I am sure the country will profit.

Yours truly,

Eric Arturo Delvalle, former president of Panama

Comptroller Urges Ex-Presidents To Show Records

PA2001032190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles has told "LA PRENSA" that his office is giving all former presidents the opportunity to present their records showing how they spent the money obtained through special accounts that presidents had.

Former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta presented receipts and documents showing how he used $1.5 million. A report released by the Comptroller General's Office charges that the presidents of the revolutionary process [from 1968 to 1989] spent over $36 million from secret accounts through the Ministry of the Presidency.

Comptroller Carles stated that the other former presidents must do as Barletta did. Barletta presented a bulky file with records that the Comptroller General's Office will examine in due time, he said.

Regarding former President Aristides Royo's allegation that the use of funds from the presidents' special accounts was legal because it was authorized by the Legislative Assembly, the Comptroller General's Office, and the Finance Ministry, Carles said that although this is true, Royo has not explained the most important thing: "How this money was spent." Carles added: "That is what we want to find out."

Carles added that, "if Royo has the records and the evidence showing how the money was spent, it would be good for him to present them to clarify this matter, since the country demands honesty in the handling of public funds."

According to the Comptroller General's Office report, Royo spent $17,017,036.17 from October 1978 to July 1982.

Charges Against Former Minister Rognoni Expected

PA1801221790 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jan 90 pp 15, 16

[Text] Mario Rognoni [former minister of commerce and industries] will not be able to assume the office of legislator because he is guilty of misappropriation of public funds. In January and February 1988, Rognoni received checks in the amount of $57,000 drawn from a private Panama Defense Forces [FDP] account. This was learned by EL SIGLO following a careful study of secret payments made by the former FDP.

It has been proved that the three checks received by Rognoni were: check 8800055 dated 6 January 1988 for the amount of $18,000; check 9901562 dated 12 February 1988 for the amount of $23,000; and check 8802093 dated 29 February 1988 for the amount of $16,000.

A careful study of the G-4's secret account continues. All the early 1988 transactions are being studied to determine who was receiving these secret payments prior to the first attempted coup against Manuel Antonio Noriega in March 1988.

It has been proved that these were not advertising fees paid to Rognoni, because at that time Rognoni did not

have his radio talk show and he had separated himself from his partner Ruben Dario Murgas. Murgas' name also appears in the FDP's secret payroll; however, he only got the ridiculous sum of $900 a month, payable on the 6th day of the month.

At the time he received those payments from the FDP, Rognoni was commerce and industries minister in Manuel Solis Palma's so-called government. As minister, Rognoni should not have been receiving other benefits from the government. It is expected that charges against Rognoni will be presented in the next few hours.

Lawsuits Filed Against Former Officials

PA1301193290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega and former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz are the former officials of the previous Panamanian regime against whom most of the charges and lawsuits have been filed at the Public Ministry's General Secretariat.

A Public Ministry spokesman told EL PANAMA AMERICA that more than 50 lawsuits have been filed during the last 12 days against former government officials, ranging from abuse of power to torture, illegal arrests, robbery and even assassination.

The list of accusations is headed by one filed against General Manuel Antonio Noriega; Major Gonzalo Gonzalez, chief of the Machos de Monte 7th Infantry Company; and Captain Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, brother of Captain Asuncion Gaitan, bodyguard of the former Panamanian strongman, who has sought shelter at the Apostolic Nunciature.

The wife and the mother of Javier Arza, one of the officers who participated in the failed 3 October 1989 coup, accused the former military officers of "torturing and killing" their relative.

Journalist and lawyer Jaime Padilla Beliz filed charges for association with criminal intent against General Noriega, Carlos Villalaz and former Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon. The Rubio y Rubio lawfirm accuses the latter of committing crimes against political freedom, the right of assembly, and freedom of the press .

The list of military officers charged with torture include: Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, former director of the National Department of Investigation, DENI; Guillermo Wong, former Chief G-2; Captain Jesus George Balma, former G-2 executive officer; Major Federico Olechea, former chief, Battalion 2000; Major Felipe Camargo, former G-2 executive officer; and Major Marxio Herazo, former chief of the Herrera Military Zone.

The Public Ministry's reports also register accusations filed against Colonel Elias Castillo, Captain Jose Maria Chaverri, and Professor Jilma de Jurado, who are accused of abusing power.

There is also an accusation against Colonel Pascual Gonzalez, Cesar Rodriguez Maylin and Jorge Fuentes for slander and insults.

Attorney Relly Sierra Goytia filed charges against the 510 Corregimiento Representatives for usurpation of public posts.

There are even charges filed at the Public Ministry's General Secretariat by citizen Esteban Saenz Lopez against Materno Vasquez, for crimes against individual rights.

Similar charges were filed by Mr Guillermo Lopez against Captain John Pimento, former Panama Defense Force chief of communications, Lieutenants Athanasiadis and Casanova, and Sergeant Gilberto Ortega.

There are charges against former Immigration Director Belgica de Castillo and eight other officials for negotiating the granting of visas and passports to foreigners.

The attorney general revealed that his office is searching for "important" information to investigate possible felonies committed by Electoral Tribunal officials.

Cruz announced that former officials who are still under arrest at the U.S. Army installations in the canal area will be investigated when they are turned over to the local authorities.

The attorney general also warned that Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera would be arrested if he returned to Panama because he has to "serve" a sentence passed on him in 1987.

The official did not rule out the possibility that some citizens may file other charges against the retired military officer who is still in Venezuela. These charges would have to be investigated, whether the latter resides abroad or in Panama, he said.

Charges Filed Against Dignity Battalion Leaders

PA1901020090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Criminal charges were filed at the Attorney General's Office yesterday against Manuel Solis Palma, former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Dr. Benjamin Colamarco, Architect Enrique Thompson, and Major Arturo Marquinez, retired. They were accused of being responsible for the creation of the Dignity Battalions.

The charges were filed by Attorney General Rosas, who charged that these militias were established by the

accused to "sustain and maintain" General Noriega's dictatorship and to persecute, arrest, assault, and torture enemies of the regime.

Rosas also reported that after the armed attack by the United States, the Dignity Battalions committed crimes against the national economy by looting businesses in Panama City, Colon, and Chorrera. Rosas also requested an investigation of the assassination of American professor Raymond Dragseth, who was kidnapped on 20 December and later shot by people presumed to be members of the Dignity Battalions.

General Rosas presented a memorandum as proof of his charges that the then President Solis Palma sent to all the ministers and directors of institutions on 3 August 1989, in which he encouraged the formation of Dignity Battalions and Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity.

Dignity Battalion Chief Calls for Reconciliation

PA2001022190 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Benjamin Colamarco, head of the disbanded Dignity Battalions, has encouraged those who are still confronting the government to surrender their weapons. Colamarco is being held on a U.S. military installation on orders of the Panamanian Government.

[Begin Colamarco recording] Major Arturo Marquinez, retired, architect Enrique Thompson, and I are here together to make important statements to the Panamanian people at this historic moment that requires our greatest effort in rebuilding the country. We are hereby making a sincere and honest appeal for all Panamanians to unite in the cause of the country's reconstruction and the reconciliation of the Panamanian family. We are hereby asking all citizens who possess weapons to lay them down and turn them over to the authorities immediately. This will ensure the country's pacification, (?unity), and return to normalcy. We truly believe in and aspire to achieve reconciliation. We believe, not in a rhetorical reconciliation, but one where all Panamanians can meet the great challenges of the future. This reconciliation will contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

We also want to point out that those who are guilty of a crime, and whose participation in drug trafficking has been proved, should be punished severely. This is our stand.

We recognize the national government headed by Guillermo Endara and Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford. We are hereby inviting all to participate in the organization and reconstruction of democracy, all of us, the government and all of the country's forces. [end recording]

Official Views Plan To Prevent Money Laundering

PA1501212890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Deputy Government Minister Ramon Lima yesterday disclosed that the Panamanian authorities are going to cooperate with the U.S. antidrug agencies to "clean up the bank accounts" opened in Panama by drug traffickers to "launder money."

Lima, who on behalf of Panama recently signed a mutual cooperation agreement with the United States to reduce the demand for drugs and to fight drug trafficking, said the agreement is not an attack on banking secrecy.

The deputy minister announced that to the "extent" that there are bank accounts "linked" to drug trafficking, "Panama will cooperate with the United States to help the fight against them" and will begin checking them.

There are currently 112 banks that operate in Panama, and before the political and economic crisis that began in 1987, there was more than $50 billion in deposits. Washington repeatedly charged that the country's banking system was lending itself to launder money for the drug cartels.

According to Ramon Lima, the only people who should be concerned about the agreement are the drug traffickers who "used the banks established in Panama to launder their money."

He added that they are the ones who should be "afraid because of the information" that will soon be given to the United States, but the other clients of the banks "can rest assured" because the Panamanian Government is going to "respect" banking secrecy.

According to the deputy minister, the antidrug cooperation agreement will benefit Panama because it will "clean up Panama's name, which had been quite tarnished by the previous government's policy" of not cooperating in the fight against drug traffickers.

Ramon Lima disclosed that the bank accounts used by the cocaine cartels to launder their profits have yet to be identified, but it is "quite probable" that if there is "sufficient evidence" to link those funds with drug trafficking, Panama will provide the information to investigate them.

Since 1987, Panama has been excluded from the list of countries that cooperate with the United States in fighting drug trafficking. With the new cooperation agreement, this country will be able to obtain certification from the Bush administration and the U.S. Congress that will permit it to again be included in the Caribbean Basin Initiative and in the group of nations receiving preferential trade treatment.

The deputy government minister also said the agreement with the United States does not include the establishment of a continental center in Panama for the fight against drug trafficking, as former President Francisco Rodriguez had offered in a speech to the UN General Assembly.

"We are not going to make that offer," Lima said, adding that he believes the previous government's offer had the "intention" of obtaining "first hand information that would then be leaked to the drug traffickers so they could defend themselves."

Several banks used by drug traffickers were audited while the government was controlled by General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

In 1985, the First Inter-Americas Bank was audited and its operating license was cancelled. The government argued that the bank was owned by Colombian drug traffickers Jorge Luis Ochoa and Gilberto Rodriguez.

Through "Operation Piscis," which was carried out in 1987 in cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), several accounts opened in Colombian banks in Panama were also audited.

The last action to investigate aspects dealing with money laundering occurred at the beginning of 1989 when the Banking Commission and the Attorney General's Office ordered the temporary closing of the Banco de Occidente, which was used to launder millions of dollars from the Medellin Cartel.

Media Reports on Antidrug Accord With U.S.

PA1301040190

[Editorial Report] Panamanian media have widely reported the 10 January signing of a U.S.-Panamanian agreement to fight international drug trafficking, though coverage has consisted of straight reportage without commentary on the agreement itself.

Panama City LA PRENSA on 11 January carries a 300 word, front-page report under a photo of Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon shaking hands with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Melvyn Levitsky. The article says that "after 2 years and a lengthy political crisis, which was worsened by a 'total freeze' in diplomatic relations, Panama and the United States yesterday signed a Mutual Cooperation Accord to Fight International Drug Trafficking." Comments made by Levitsky on the agreement are cited in the article.

Panama City EL SIGLO on 11 January carries on its front-page the same picture with a caption that reads: "Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, celebrates with a handshake the signing of a cooperation accord with U.S. representative Melvyn Levitsky, secretary of state for narcotics issues." No report on the agreement accompanies the photo.

Panama City CRITICA LIBRE on 11 January carries on page 15 a 150-word article reporting on the agreement and citing Levitsky statements at a news conference given at the United States Information Service offices in Panama City. This newspaper on page 16 also carries the same photograph of Arias Calderon and Levitsky mentioned above.

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA on 11 January carries on p 7-B, a 350-word ACAN-EFE report, which says that "the United States and Panama yesterday signed a basic accord to cooperate in the fight against drug trafficking, Melvyn Levitsky, assistant secretary of state for narcotics issues, reported in the Panamanian capital." The news agency also cites Levitsky remarks on the agreement at the news conference.

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 11 January carries a 350-word, front-page article reporting that Panama and the United States "yesterday signed a 'strategic' agreement to fight drug trafficking and money laundering, which has been described as 'a message to the drug traffickers' of the world." This article mentions some details on the four-page, nine-article agreement, including information on aid and cooperation, exchange of drug information, and controls at customs houses. It also cites Levitsky statements on the importance of the agreement.

Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 10 January carried a 1-minute report in which it cited Levitsky as saying that Panama and the United States had signed a basic agreement to fight drug trafficking.

Businessman Flown to U.S. After Surrendering

PA1801223790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Enrique A. Pretelt, a Panamanian businessman linked to a bribery case in connection with the smuggling of Colombian marijuana into the United States, has turned himself in to U.S. justice and was flown to MacDill Air Force Base by FBI agents. His whereabouts are to remain unknown until the time of the hearing at a U.S. federal court. His sole co-defendent is Manuel Antonio Noriega. Tampa lawyers believe he will cooperate and provide much evidence against Noriega. Pretelt, who is 45 years old and owns a chain of stores in Panama, may be sentenced to 34 years in jail if he is found guilty.

Pretelt, Noriega, and the late Cesar Rodriguez are accused of receiving over $4 million to allow marijuana to go through Panama from Colombia to the United States. The last drug shipment, hidden as banana cargo, was seized.

Ministry Urges Escaped Prisoners To Return

PA2101222490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 90 p A1, A8

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Ministry's National Correctional Department in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry's National Correctional Department hereby announces that all those persons who were facing charges or who were sentenced for common crimes and were jailed in the country's various prisons but who were released as a result of the incidents that began on 20 December must return immediately to their respective jails in compliance with the law.

Voluntary return will be taken into consideration as good behavior and will receive a recommendation from this office. After a reasonable period of time, those who have not returned will be declared fugitives, and their arrests will be ordered based on the methods set forth in the Judicial Code. They will receive the appropriate punishment as stipulated in the Penal Law.

Legal basis: Articles 365 and following of the Penal Code. Articles 2315 and following of the Judicial Code (Book III).

National Correctional Department

Ministry Announces Shortening of Curfew Hours

PA2101181090 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1750 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Government and Justice Ministry communique issued 21 January—read by announcer]

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry advises citizens in general that as of this moment the curfew hours have been shorted as follows:

For the cities of Panama and Colon, from 2400 to 0500.

For the rest of the country, the hours are from 0100 to 0500.

The Government and Justice Ministry states its appreciation to the citizens for their strict compliance with the measure and for their cooperation and understanding.

National Bank Manager Views Bank Situation

PA2201042890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Panama's National Bank Manager Luis H. Moreno and his executive staff held a news conference this morning, and they stressed how important it is for the nation to totally reorganize the leading bank in the city for the bank to regain the confidence that its customers always had in that institution. Moreno said it is necessary to build an image of bankers and public workers of whom thousands of customers can be proud.

[Begin Moreno recording] We have discontinued unjustified and detrimental personal service contracts, some of which were assigned to other institutions for a monthly sum of $62,000. Strict control has been exerted to safeguard files and documents. A large number of petty cash systems were eliminated due to the excessive amounts involved—sometimes up to $10,000. Sixty-five maintenance, service, and supply contracts in excess of $2 million are being evaluated, and their renegotiation will be carried out in strict compliance with the law and the bank's objectives.

For the same reason, we have cancelled publicity and promotion contracts worth $980,000. Half of these contracts were issued in the name of other government agencies. We also cancelled arrangements for private security guard services in addition to the security department that operates in the bank, which costs $12,000 per month, even though no contract was signed for this service.

It is interesting to point out that private deposits in the National Bank seem to have stabilized between 19 December 1989 and 12 January 1990, registering a slight increase of $3 million for the first time in 3 years.

The bank manager also stated that as a result of embezzlement by the Noriega regime, the national government has to face a debt in excess of $270 million to reopen the bank's credit lines and increase its liquidity.

Banking Restrictions Extended for 6 Months

PA2001032890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 8B

[Report by Julian Pritsiolas]

[Text] Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association, reported on 15 January that the existing restrictions on time deposits and other savings accounts have been extended until 30 June 1990.

Lasso Valdes explained that this decision was adopted at a recent National Banking Commission meeting at which Planning Ministry, Finance Ministry, and National Bank representatives, as well as a delegation representing the banks, were present.

The banking restrictions were implemented in March 1988, after the United States decided to freeze Panama National Bank's funds in U.S. banks, but as time passed, some of these restrictions were partially lifted.

The banking association president said it decided to extend the restrictions to give depositors time to totally recover their lost confidence in the Panamanian banking system.

Lasso Valdes said: "We want to go back to the time when customers withdrew only as needed and left excess funds in the bank."

According to Lasso Valdes, the 112 banks that operate in the country have reported a "slight increase" in their deposits since the new government took office, which demonstrates that there is full confidence in the banking system and a generalized desire for things to return to normal as soon as possible.

Lasso Valdes also urged Panamanians to redeposit money—that has been transferred to other countries because of the crisis—in Panamanian banks.

Before the nation's political and economic crisis started in June 1987, the Panamanian banking system had around $50 billion in deposits, but in the past few months, deposits declined to $8 billion.

Lasso Valdes believes the Panamanian economy can be reactivated by granting the national banking system money through special loans with grace periods and low interests—money that in turn would be loaned under these same conditions to the construction industry and to businesses that have been devastated.

The Banking Association president feels that the matters contemplated in the recent cooperation agreement signed by the United States and Panama to exchange information on accounts tied to drug trafficking are already provided for in Panamanian law.

Lasso Valdes said bankers are not opposed to investigation of this type of transaction, but said that any information on a customer's confidential account can only be revealed if a criminal investigation is underway or there is evidence to justify such a request from the authorities. Lasso Valdes reported that the association is "opposed" to having people who are not involved in this type of investigation request details about the bank accounts of particular customers.

Cabinet Decree Extends Tax Payment Deadline

PA1901033290 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 1, B8

[Text] Cabinet Decree No. 9 of 8 January 1990

"By which measures are adopted in regard to the payment of taxes, issuance of tax clearance certificates, submission of tax return documents, and certain customs transactions."

The Cabinet Council,

Considering:

That the recent incidents in the country have affected the normal development of economic and administrative activities;

That said incidents forced, among other things, the temporary closure of government offices, thus preventing the taxpayer from fulfilling his material and formal obligations to the central government and the state's decentralized entities;

That, on the other hand, a large number of taxpayers refrained from filing their income tax returns for 1988 and have not paid their taxes for that year;

That many employers also have not paid the Social Security Fund compensation and other benefits quota;

That it is necessary to speed up the issuance of tax clearance certificates and customs transactions to promote the return of the country to a normal situation;

That under the current circumstances the taxpayer must be allowed to make arrangements to pay in accordance with his payment capacity, which has been affected by the country's overall economic situation or by the recent incidents.

Decrees:

Article One: For the purpose of this cabinet decree, the word "tax" includes, without exclusion, all taxes, contributions, withholdings, rates, rights, excise taxes, social security quotas, education taxes, and, in general, all those cash payments that the taxpayer, withholding agent, those responsible for the payment of taxes, and other liable persons (from now on to be described as "contributors") must pay the national government, the decentralized state entities, and in general all government entities that are an active element in said fiscal relationship, except the municipal entities.

Article Two: The deadline for the payment of all taxes through 31 December 1989 has been extended through 15 February 1990. The taxpayers who pay said taxes before the deadline expires will not be subject to late fees, interest, or fines.

Article Three: The dispositions included in Article Two do not apply to those taxpayers affected by the administrative, legal, or judicial bans imposed by foreign authorities. These taxpayers will make the necessary payment, without late fees or fines, no later than 15 February 1990.

The amounts owed by said taxpayers will include an interest equal to that paid by the bank where these taxes were deposited or to an interest rate based on the U.S. interbank rates, whichever is higher. The taxpayer who did not deposit the taxes in a bank will pay interest in accordance with the aforementioned interbank rate.

The interest will be computed from the date on which the bans were ordered through the date of payment of said taxes as long as these payments are made no later than 15 February 1990.

Article Four: The taxpayer who has filed his tax return documents and who wishes to make adjustments to the original document and benefit from the rights under Article Two may file an amended tax return for each year or fiscal period declaring the new adjusted amount.

The taxpayer who has not filed his tax return document and who wishes to benefit from the rights under Article

Two must file an income tax return for each fiscal year or period not filed and document on each return the amount of tax to be paid.

The taxpayers will have through 15 February 1990 to file their tax returns without being fined.

Article Five: Through 15 February 1990, the General Directorate of Revenues, the Social Security Fund Directorate, and other government entities, are authorized to make payment arrangements for those taxpayers who owe money, setting deadlines, terms, conditions, and methods of payment, as well as the total or partial pardon of past due fines and interest depending on the situation of the taxpayer and his payment ability as a result of the recent looting or damage to his economic activities over the past 3 years.

Article Six: The General Directorate of Revenues is hereby authorized to issue tax clearance certificates, as established in Article 739 of the Fiscal Code, for the period including the extension of the deadline for the payment of said taxes. These certificates will be valid until 15 February 1990.

Article Seven: The entities mentioned in Article Five will order the end to all administrative and legal procedures undertaken if said taxes are paid by the taxpayers or responsible parties by 15 February 1990.

Article Eight: Those responsible for withheld taxes that have not been paid to the National Treasury will immediately return these to the taxpayer if the taxpayer can prove that the total or partial amount of the withholdings were paid directly by them to the National Treasury. The General Directorate of Revenues will intervene and establish the system for the return of said taxes.

Article Nine: Through 15 February 1990, all those taxpayers, who, because of delays in the necessary transactions, cannot obtain authorization to import goods or raw materials with the tax-exemptions to which they are entitled, will be able to withdraw these goods or raw materials from the customs warehouses without paying the necessary taxes as long as they can guarantee, and have said guarantee approved by the General Directorate of Customs, that they will be able to pay said taxes. Following a 2-month deadline, which will begin as of the day said products are removed from the warehouse, if the taxpyaer cannot prove his right to this tax-exemption, the total amount of taxes, fines, and late charges will be demanded through legal procedures.

Article Ten: This cabinet decree will be implemented as of the date of its approval.

Be it promulgated and executed.

Issued in Panama City on 8 January 1990.

Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic
Ricardo Arias Calderon, government and justice minister
Guillermo Ford B., planning and economic policy minister
Julio E. Linares, foreign relations minister
Rene Orillac, public works minister
Mario Galindo, treasury minister
Ada L. de Gordon, education minister
Jorge Ruben Rosas, labor and social welfare minister
Jose Trinidad Castillero, health minister
Juan B. Chevalier, commerce and industries minister

Party Official Denies Split Within ADOC

PA2101160190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jan 90 p 6

[Article by Arnulfo Mendoza]

[Text] Francisco Artola, vice president of the Panamenist Arnulfista Party [PPA], currently being organized, said to this newspaper: "I have always stated that the figure required to legally create a political party should be increased to 100,000 adherents, thus ending the disorder of the mini-parties that are only looking for the famous "political opportunities" and that do not advocate good government management."

Artola stressed: "President Endara's government has said time and again it will not permit 'political opportunities.' This is why we must see how positions in the government's various ministries and agencies are distributed among members of the different parties."

The prominent member of the PPA, currently being organized, said to CRITICA LIBRE: "It is not true that there is a split or that there are differences among the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] political groups that support the current government." This opinion contrasts with that given by other members of the Arnulfista Authentic Panamenist Party, including Alcibiades Vasquez, assistant secretary general of the Panama District Directorate, who said to this newspaper that "fellow party members of the largest party in the political history of Panama" feel displaced by members of the Christian Democratic Party. Artola said that these expressions of uneasiness are the result of political opinions and tendencies based on different ideologies, and this is noticeable in a democracy. A democratic opportunity prevails in the country, and we cannot underrate the opinions of several tendencies within the same party—much less the ADOC, Artola added.

"We believe all the sectors should meet and state their views or they are not contributing toward solving the problems and politically improving the party", Artola stated.

New Arnulfist Party To Publish Platform

PA1401203390 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Those persons who followed the late political leader Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid when he was alive, and who today follow the country's constitutional President

Guillermo Endara Galimany, will soon have their own party. It will be called the Arnulfist Party [Partido Arnulfista].

In accordance with legal dispositions, the Electoral Tribunal's general secretary has ordered that the initial steps for the official recognition of the party be taken, beginning with the publication of its registered documents that were presented on 12 January 1990.

The party's provisional board will be headed by Jorge Pacifico Adames, president and provisional representative; Francisco Artola, first vice president; Carlos Young Adames, second vice president; Guillermo Endara Galimany, secretary general; Hector Penalba, deputy secretary general; Napoleon Salazar, treasurer; and Miguel Batista, board member.

Arnulfo Arias Madrid's followers participated in the 1984 elections as the Authentic Panamenist Party, an organization that was registered after serious differences with other Panamenist members, who seized the symbols and legal representations of the party that took Dr Arias to the presidency in 1968.

Arnulfists supporting Guillermo Endara Galimany, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford went to the 1989 elections without legal representation, as they were fighting over it with Hildebrando Nicosia, also an old follower of Dr Arias. The dispute was taken to the courts, and Nicosia was given control of the party. However, although Nicosia went to these elections as the party's presidential candidate, he won only an insignificant number of votes.

When registration procedures are completed, the Arnulfists in the Arnulfist Party will be politically active with a new emblem. It is a rectangle, divided into three equal parts. "The left third of the rectangle is placed vertically and colored purple, an Arnulfist symbol for past, present, and future sacrifices in the quest for a better Panama."

Arnulfism's new symbol also includes the colors red and yellow. Yellow means "intuitive faith in men, women, and children and in the coming of a new era of light, fraternity, peace, and abundance." The color red signifies "the blood shed by the martyrs of all times in the struggle for justice, freedom, independence, and democracy."

The Arnulfists gave the Electoral Tribunal the name of the new party, a facsimile of its emblem, its charter of principles, its government program and proposed bylaws, and other required documents.

Communist Party Demands U.S. Troop Withdrawal

PA1401021190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1808 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The communist People's Party [PdP] today demanded from the Guillermo Endara government "the immediate withdrawal" of U.S. troops from Panamanian territory, 25 days after the U.S. troops invaded Panama.

In a communique released today, the "politburo" of the PdP states that the Endara government must demand the "immediate withdrawal" of U.S. troops from Panama so that the country can return to "normal."

The political party also requested from the new government the "strict fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties," signed by the United States and Panama in 1977. By virtue of the treaties, the canal will be turned over to Panama and the U.S. military bases will be dismantled by the end of 1999.

However, the PdP considers that "the U.S military occupation" is the "greatest obstacle" to the fulfillment of the canal treaties by the United States.

The communique adds that the 20 December U.S. military invasion "has created an objective situation: The overthrow of General Noriega and the appointment of another government headed by Guillermo Endara and supported by the U.S. invading troops."

The communique states that despite President Endara's calls to avoid vengeance among Panamanians, the U.S Army, "on the contrary and on its own, is carrying out raids and making arrests, and its presence has become obvious throughout the country."

Regarding the news media, the communique charges that it has been placed "in irresponsible hands" and that "moved by a desire for revenge, it is calling for a witch-hunt."

New Legislators Listed; Noriega Backers Included

PA1901020590 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Jan 90 pp 16, 15

[Text] As a result of circumstances that are hard to understand, communist gunmen, merciless murderers, and shameless thieves who supported the regime of terror up to the last moment will assume seats in the Legislative Assembly. These are people who are still conspiring against democracy and public freedom. From the Legislative Assembly, they will no doubt continue to spit upon the dignity of Panamanians unless someone reports them and requests that their parliamentary immunity be lifted.

EL SIGLO presents to the Panamanian people the final list of the legislators who won the 7 May 1989 elections, according to calculations by a special commission especially appointed by the president. The commission worked with approximately 80 percent of the electoral records, but it was impossible to determine who the winners were in nine electoral circuits where new elections are required.

A tremendous scandal will ensue when credentials are given to elected legislators such as Balbina de Perinan,

Mario Rognoni, Gerardo Gonzalez, and Alberto Aleman Boyd—all members of the ominous PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]—who committed all sorts of electoral fraud in fixing the final results of the elections for legislator in their electoral circuits.

EL SIGLO believes that such an injustice should not be allowed and that decent citizens must report each of these infamous individuals. There is a story to tell about each one of them and EL SIGLO will begin publishing them.

Any citizen who has evidence against any of these fervent Noriega followers should seek the professional services of the law firm of their choice. We, however, recommend Jones and Associates, Rafael Rodriguez and Associates, Arias and Duran, and Padilla and Associates. We list the new legislators: [Christian Democratic Party, PDC; National Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA; Labor Party, PALA; Authentic Liberal Party, PLA]

Circuit	Number	Legislator	Party
Changuinola	1.1	Francisco Artola	Arnulfista
Chiriqui Grande	1.2	new elections	
Penonome	2.1	Gabriel Arosemena	PDC
	2.1	Tadeo Ibanez	MOLIRENA
Anton	2.2.	new elections	
Nata	2.3	Hernan Gnaeggi	PALA
Aguadulce	2.4	Luis F. Narvaez	MOLIRENA
Colon	3.1	Raquel L. de Francia	PDC
	3.1	Alfredo Ehlers	PDC
	3.1	Jaime Fernandez	MOLIRENA
	3.1	Miguel Bush	PRD
Costa Arriba	3.2	new election	
David	4.1	Jose Domingo Torres	PDC
	4.1	Camilo Brenes	PDC
	4.1	Librado Montegro	MOLIRENA
Baru	4.2	Ramon Aizpurua	PDC
	4.2	Ricardo Perez Coleman	PDC
Bugaba	4.3	Erick Fidel Santamaria	PDC
	4.3	Alexis Ayala	PDC
Indian area	4.4	new elections	
Alanje	4.5	Guillen [as published]	Arnulfista
Boquete	4.6	Nodier Miranda	PLA
Tole	4.7	Jorge R. Rosas	MOLIRENA
Chepigana	5.1	new elections	
Pinogana	5.2	new elections	
Chitre	6.1	Arnulfo Escalona	PLA
Pese	6.2	Hector Crespo	MOLIRENA
Ocu	6.3	Aurelio Alba	Arnulfista (3)
Las Tablas	7.1	Miguel Cardenas	MOLIRENA
Los Santos	7.2	Alberto Cigarruista	PLA
Tonosi	7.3	Sebastian Escobar	PDC
Arraijan	8.1	Jose Rafael Hill	PDC
Capira	8.2	Domi Luis Montenegro	PDC
Chame	8.3	new elections	
Chepo	8.4	Roberto Garibaldo	MOLIRENA
Chorrera	8.5	Raul Ossa	PDC
	8.5	Anasticio Batista	PDC
San Miguelito	8.6	Gisela Chung	MOLIRENA
	8.6	Alvarez Eliceo	MOLIRENA
	8.6	Alonso Villareal	PDC
	8.6.	Carlos Felipe Escobar	PDC
	8.6	Balbina Perinan	PRD
Calidonia	8.7	Jose Antonio Sossa	PDC
	8.7	Alberto Aleman Boyd	PRD
	8.7	Lucas Zarak	PLA
	8.7	Francisco Martinez	MOLIRENA
Bella Vista	8.8	Carlos Arellano Lennox	PDC
	8.8	Ada de Gordon	PDC
	8.8	Marco Ameglio	PLA
	8.8	Mario Rognoni	PRD
San Francisco	8.9	Guillermo A. Cochez	PDC
	8.9	Milton Henriquez	PDC
	8.9	Gloria M. de Lopez	PDC
	8.9	Olimpo Saenz	MOLIRENA

	8.9	Elias Castillo	PRD
Las Cumbres	8.1	Keith Holder	PDC
	8.1	Arturo Vallarino	MOLIRENA
	8.1	Leo Gonzalez	MOLIRENA
	8.1	Gerardo Gonzalez	PRD
Santiago	9.1	Carlos Carrizo	PDC
	9.1	Erasmo Mendez Merida	PDC
Sona	9.2	Rolando Martinelli	MOLIRENA
San Francisco	9.3	new elections	
Montijo	9.4	Mario Forero	MOLIRENA
Canazas	9.5	Jorge E. Montemayor	PDC
Tupile	10.1	Alcibiades Alvarado	PDC
Aligandi	10.2	new elections	

National Civic Crusade Issues Communique

PA1501170390 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 3B

[Communique issued by the National Civic Crusade in Panama City on 14 January: "Everything Depends on Us"]

[Text] The future of the fatherland looms clear and pure following the bloodiest tyranny the residents of our isthmian country have ever experienced. It becomes necessary to reflect on the developments of the past decade in our republic. It becomes important to carefully analyze the gradual deterioration of the civilian governments prior to 1968, whose corruption, discredit, and lack of popular support created the conditions for the installment of a military dictatorship. It becomes necessary to direct the course of all Panamanians to the place that can allow us to progress in peace and tranquillity: a just, free, and democratic Panama.

When the National Civic Crusade [CCN] speaks of justice it refers to the urgent and unescapable need in Panama to have the deep structural changes that all Panamanians have been demanding for many years and not to revive practices that existed before 1968. It would be unforgiveable for those now holding political power and the historic responsibility of guiding the future of the Panamanian people not to introduce—from the start—the deep changes that are so necessary, so there are no special laws and privileges to benefit minorities. It would be inexplicable for future generations not to objectively analyze the current situation, which is perhaps only comparable to the one experienced on 3 November 1903.

It would be unforgivable if the traditional distribution of public posts as political booty should again occur. This is the time for the most capable people and not for acquired commitments.

When the CCN refers to democracy it does so thinking about a new system where the will of the majority, gathered in organizations united to fight against the tyranny, is interpreted by the government, while control over the government's actions is always maintained so the necessary corrections are effectively and immediately applied.

When the CCN raises the banner of liberty it does so requesting, on behalf of the people who have always supported us, the complete and effective demilitarization of all the government's branches. It must be a true demilitarization that guarantees there will never again exist the possibility of having a Panamanian subject to the insults, mourning, and sorrow that the internal occupying army inflicted on us for many years. It must be a demilitarization that always guarantees a civilian leadership over the military leadership according to the Constitution and the laws.

Now is the time for all Panamanians to significantly exert ourselves without seeking personal benefit, without vainly seeking superficial recognition, so this new Panama may overcome the discredit, immorality, and corruption in which the military tyranny had immersed us.

The dignified Panamanians who today assume control of the government's affairs should particularly be an example of honesty, dedication, self-sacrifice, and control so Panamanians may revive the civic and moral values that always characterized us and distinguished us in the past.

The CCN will always be the Panamanian people's keeper and conscience. It will continue the struggle to strengthen our democratic system by honoring the sacrifice we all made to rescue the homeland from the military dictatorship's claws. We will continue to represent the will of our people, who today see the goals achieved by their struggle for freedom in the independent and sovereign Panama we all hoped for.

It is necessary to state, from the bottom of our hearts, the true feelings of eternal gratitude to all the martyrs of the civic struggle and to the freedom heroes; and let us always keep the fire of remembrance burning so we may not forget the attacks and atrocities perpetrated by a totalitarian regime that soiled and reviled our nationality. The deep changes that the people demand are justified, today more than ever, without hiding the crude reality we currently live in and will live in during the national reconstruction phase that recently began.

We wish to clearly state our full confidence that Panama and Panamanians will become a corner that is the envy of all the world's inhabitants. Panama will rise from the rubble more strong and prosperous than ever; it will all depend on our decision to do so. The CCN reasserts to

the Panamanian people its uncompromising pledge to help rebuild the homeland in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation, but also with justice.

DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE, AND LIBERTY
NATIONAL CIVIC CRUSADE
Panama City, 14 January, 1990.

Students at Military Institute Reject Charges

PA1301192690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp A8, 20

[Text] A group of students from the General Tomas Herrera Military Institute [IMGTH; located on the Rio Hato Military Base] have rejected several reports published by the daily EL SIGLO which raised charges against students and officers of the IMGTH and the Benjamin Ruiz Noncommissioned Officers School.

Students Cesar Aparicio, Luis Peralta, Raul R. Gordon, and Ernesto Valdes rejected charges about the alleged unloading of drugs, fighting against the U.S. Army, or changes in their teachers.

"We did not offer any resistance," said student Luis Peralta, who emphasized that Major Francisco Porras Mojica risked his life to save the lives of the students at the institute "which is a high school, a technological institute, where there is military discipline, but no weapons are used."

The following is a communique issued by the students rejecting the accusations made by the daily EL SIGLO.

Communique to the people:

We, the undersigned students from the [IMGTH] have decided to issue the following statement due to the constant rumors circulating about the training we have received at our alma mater.

In the first place, our curriculum does not include handling any type of war weapons. Therefore, it is not true that we are subversive elements in our society or have fought the U.S. Army troops, inasmuch as we are not even familiar with weapons. It is also untrue that the director of our institute or any civilian or military instructors ordered us to shoot against anyone in the event of an attack. The only instructions we received in this regard concerned an evacuation plan. This plan was not carried out on 20 December 1989, as the situation was extremely serious.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to state that in those moments of anguish, Major Francisco Porras Mojica took it upon himself to save the lives of some of our companions who were close to him. He took them out of the area, risking his own life. This can be confirmed by some companions who experienced this (one of those signing this letter is among them.)

To conclude, on our behalf and on behalf of many other Tomasitos and former Tomasitos, we want to send a message of moral and spiritual support to our former director, Maj Francisco Porras Mojica, at the prison where he may be. Panama, 11 January 1990 [signed] Luis A. Peralta, cedula 8-396-611; Jaime Braeldiek, Raul R. Gordon, Nicolas Brak, Jose A. De Leon, Cesar C. Carrasco, 8-376-86; Ernesto R. Valdes, 9-181-547; Cesar A. Aparicio S., and Fernando Rivera.

Colon Power Company Workers Demand Dismissals

PA1801231590 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jan 90 p 11

[Text] Tomas Segura, leader of the SITIRHE [Union of Workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] in Colon, has reported that the Colon SITIRHE workers held a work stoppage on 8 and 10 January to demand the removal of officials who were members of the CODEPADI and the Dignity Battalions.

Segura said workers who had been dismissed for waging a struggle against the tyrant Noriega have been reinstated in their jobs. These include Segura, Esther Mesa, and Moises Chong.

In a communique addressed to Engineer Jorge de la Guardia, current IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] director, the leaders and workers of the Colon SITIRHE requested the dismissal of officials who have committed "countless abuses and violations of the rights of the working class and who were protected by the regime of dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega."

Those who cooperated with Noriega are: Ricardo E. Dominguez, from the Colon regional manager's office; Tamara de Rodriguez, Salvador Camargo, Alfonso Garces, and Argenida Arrocha, from the administration section; Rupert Best, Guillermo Ortiz, Reinaldo Rodriguez, and Regino Bracho, from the electrical distribution section; and Brigido Ochoa from the Sabanitas office.

All of these employees worked in the IRHE in Colon.

Cuban Refugees Issue Declaration of Principles

PA1601031390 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Jan 90 pp 1, A2

[Declaration of Principles issued by the Cuban refugee community in Panama City on 14 January]

[Text] Men are divided into two groups: those who love and build and those who hate and destroy.—Jose Marti

1. The Cuban political refugees of Fidel Castro's regime, who left the island in protest over the policy of force exercised by the government and the absence of human rights our people have endured, met today at a public, free, and democratic assembly in the Republic of Panama to tell the world about our condition as political emigres, and to express our natural and legitimate hopes.

2. We submit that the free and democratic nature of this assembly could only be possible by virtue of the emergence to power in this nation of a sovereign government that genuinely represents the Panamanian people's will.

3. We likewise submit that prior to the historic events of 20 December 1989, the Cuban refugees in Panama would never have been able to meet to democratically discuss their problems, let alone aspire to having the dictatorship's authorities stop to listen to their pleas and demands. For Noriega's corrupt regime, the Cuban refugees were persona non grata.

4. We declare that taking advantage of our rejection of Fidel Castro's regime, our rejection of the Stalinism that prevails in Cuba, and our desire for freedom, Noriega's agents—in alliance with Fidel's agents—sold us visas for transit through Panama at fabulous prices.

The money obtained from this abominable traffic of human beings allowed Noriega to increase his millions and broaden his business dealings with Cuba. Humanity has never known a more objectionable and cruel business.

5. We declare that as we gradually arrived in this country, our passports were taken away from us, we were forced to pay for identification cards (cedulas) that denied us the right to work and to renew these identification cards every 6 months at a cost of $20 per person.

We were not entitled to the precarious health system.

The lack of schooling for our children increased our worries.

The passports retained by the immigration directorate could only be recovered by paying $300.

Evidently the Noriega-Castro narco-dictatorship set a trap and the Cuban refugees in Panama had fallen into it.

6. Either because we never received economic aid from our families abroad, or because that aid could no longer be sent, the Cubans in Panama had to resort to a variety of survival methods. Aware at times of its illegality, children and teenagers sell bread; adults sell bananas, stuffed potatoes, homemade pastries, and turnovers; and the elderly sell coffee in the streets; some women chose to work as maids.

With this same dignity, the Cuban refugees in Panama did the widest variety of jobs to survive on a precarious level. In cases where not even these possibilities were available, people lived amid inhuman conditions.

7. The Cuban exiles in Panama have been singular witnesses to the war that became necessary for this country's total liberation, which was carried out by the U.S. Army. We must regret the loss of fellow Cubans in the war.

We are absolutely firm in our belief that now that the world knows the criminal nature of Noriega's dictatorship and our current situation, it is not fair for our community to be ignored and abandoned to its fate.

8. We believe that under the current circumstances faced by the Republic of Panama, it is impossible for the Cuban refugees to improve their living condition; on the contrary, their living condition has become increasingly difficult.

9. Considering the thousands of Panamanian workers who are jobless because of the events that have taken place, and without ever forgetting the warmth that we received from the Panamanian people at all times and under all circumstances, we believe that it would be unfair for our problems to be temporarily solved by taking the jobs to which Panamanian workers are entitled.

10. Consequently, given the special condition of Cuban refugees in Panama, we urgently ask the U.S. Government to allow the departure of all the Cuban refugees in Panama within as brief a time as possible, so we can join our community in the United States.

11. We pray to God that he will enlighten and guide our minds and those of the U.S. authorities who must make a final decision with regard to our future.

Commission of Cuban Refugees in Panama!
Felix Puga Vazquez, president; Hector Higueras, vice president; Ines Muniz Suarez, secretary.

Canal Employees' Communique Issued 29 Dec

PA1801161390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jan 90 p 3B

["Communique to the country" issued by Association of Panama Canal Employees in Panama City on 29 December 1989]

[Text] The Association of Panama Canal Employees (ASODEC) wishes to bring to the attention of the public the following issues that are matters of current interest and importance to the future of the Panama Canal and our homeland:

1. The culmination of the Panamanian people's aspirations regarding democracy, justice, and freedom began on 20 December 1989.

2. The will expressed by our entire people at the polls as a manifestation of their sovereignty and self-determination also included a demand for full observance of human rights, due process, and recovery of our civic and moral values.

3. The canal employees were subjected by the previous regime to all sorts of vexation, abuse, intimidation,

irregular detentions and unjust arrests, judicial persecution, attachment of properties, denial of tax clearance certificates, and refusal to receive income and educational tax returns.

4. Despite all hardships, the canal employees worked with full dedication and efficiency to maintain optimum services at the interoceanic waterway for the benefit of Panama and the international maritime community.

5. The previous regime tried to force the U.S. Government to appoint a canal administrator "with a nationalist stance" who not only demonstrated that he knew nothing about the Panama Canal treaties, agreements, annexes, and other related documents, but was also the "big absentee" in all instances in which the problems of the canal employees were explained and discussed and an attempt was made to solve them.

It is resolved:

1. To express our unqualified support for the restoration of democracy, justice, and freedom, as well as for reconciliation among all Panamanians.

2. To cooperate resolutely to keep human rights and due process from ever being violated again, and to keep our country from becoming a fertile ground for dictatorships or drug trafficking or a place for the storage or transshipment of weapons that may represent a danger to Panama and to the international community.

3. To demand that His Excellency Guillermo Endara, president of the Republic; Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford; and the Cabinet promptly take steps to adopt the following solutions:

a. The acknowledgment of the income and educational tax payments that were deducted by our employers and are still being held in special accounts, free of fines, surcharges, or interest.

b. The issuance of all-purpose tax clearance certificates.

c. The revoking and/or annulment of administrative proceedings resulting from the alleged arrears in the payment of the said taxes. Also, the return of the goods that were seized or the payment of an indemnification in the cases in which the return of the goods is not feasible, without impairing the right to take the corresponding legal actions against the receivers appointed by the courts, the executors of the decisions made by the Treasury and Finance Ministry, and also—as is due—against the former income tax general director.

d. The payment of social security benefits owed to Panama Canal employees for reasons of common illnesses, maternity leaves, and occupational hazards.

4. To request the national Government of Reconstruction and Reconciliation's due recognition of canal employees who have at all times honored our association's slogan: "An efficient canal depends on its people" and due respect for the merit system and the prevailing equal opportunity system.

5. To recommend that the national Government of Reconstruction and Reconciliation in proposing the name of the Panamanian administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, who must be appointed by the President of the United States of America and ratified by the U.S. Senate, who must assume the duties on 1 January 1990, as mandated by the Panama Canal treaties, take into account:

a. That individual's knowledge of the Panama Canal treaties, its accords, annexes, and related documents.

b. That individual's presence and/or participation in efforts to resolve the problems of canal employees and direct involvement in the country's life.

c. That this individual's nationalism, courage, honesty, and integrity be a guarantee for strictest compliance with the said treaties and other canal accords by both the Republic of Panama and the United States of America.

On behalf of ASODEC, its Board of Directors:

Gabriel B. Ayu Prado C., president
Jaime R. Arroyo D., first vice president
Julio A. Famiglietti C., second vice president
Soledad Piedrahita V., secretary
Rodolfo V. Jemmottt B., assistant secretary
Sylvanna M. Holder C., treasurer
Rodrigo J. Eisenmann A., assistant treasurer
Nelda M. de Rios, member
Rolando Bowen L., member
Carlos A. Rodgers, Jr., member
Ethelbert G. Mapp R., member

Issued in Panama City, Republic of Panama on 29 December 1989

Poll Reports Public's View of U.S. Invasion

PA2101005490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2048 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—According to a poll whose results were released today, 7 out of every 10 Panamanians polled were in favor of the presence of U.S. military bases in Panama beyond the year 2000, though the U.S. bases are supposed to be dismantled by that time in compliance with the treaties signed by the two countries in 1977.

While 57 percent are in favor of the U.S. military remaining in Panama "indefinitely" after the year 2000, 18 percent said the bases should "probably" stay, and only 18 percent said no, with varying shades of difference in the responses.

According to the same poll, 88 percent think the U.S. soldiers who invaded Panama on 20 December "should remain in the country."

The poll, conducted by the Gallup Institute from 3 to 13 January, questioned approximately 1,300 Panamanian citizens over 18 throughout the territory. Most of those polled were professionals, businessmen, farmers, workers, and housewives.

According to the survey, 9 out of 10 Panamanians polled think the U.S. armed action, which ousted the government of Manuel Antonio Noriega on 20 December, was a "liberation," while 14 percent describe it as an "invasion."

Those polled pointed out that the armed action was "necessary." More than 90 percent think the people's security, the economic situation, the number of jobs available, the administration of justice, and democracy "will improve." In addition, 86 percent think political stability will improve.

Furthermore, 82 percent believe the United States will probably comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which stipulate that the United States will hand over the canal to Panama on the last day of 1999.

Also, 95 percent do not think new elections are necessary and they believe Guillermo Endara won the 7 May elections, according to which he should govern for the next 5 years.

For those polled, the new government's priorities should be creating jobs, reactivating the economy, building homes, improving relations with other countries, fighting drug trafficking, and disarming the people, in that order.

Nevertheless, and according to the survey, the reconstruction of the economy "is necessary to consolidate the democratic regime. The people are not seeking deep structural changes and do not anticipate a revolution."

The majority of those polled agrees that some state institutions should be kept but does not want a military force in their country. They regard a police force as "sufficient."

Regarding Manuel Antonio Noriega, 90 percent think he did a poor job as commander of the Panamanian troops. Ninety-nine percent accused the now disbanded Defense Forces of "abuse."

Nearly 80 percent expressed approval of Noriega's trial being conducted in the United States, while 61 percent do not want Noriega to be returned to Panama to be tried for the crimes attributed to him.

The actions of Costa Rica and the United States are regarded favorably, while the actions of Cuba and Nicaragua were looked upon with less favor.

Catholic Paper Assesses Reaction to Invasion

PA1501212690 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Invasion or Liberation?"]

[Text] Some publicity agencies have erroneously interpreted the sense of the eucharistic homily pronounced by Panamanian Archbishop Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath on 9 January. Invasion by a foreign army, regardless of the motives invoked, does not cease to be a public calamity in view of the moral, as well as political, consequences caused to the Panamanian nation. In view of the disavowal by the constituted authorities of the majority's will expressed at the polls on 7 May, in view of the failure of the talks between the conflicting parties under the impassive gaze of the OAS, and in view of the failure of the mechanisms used by the OAS to find a viable solution to resolve the acute Panamanian crisis, a dangerous situation emerged that bordered on desperation with unforeseeable effects because the constituted authorities publicly renounced their duty to protect the lives and properties of foreigners and Panamanians alike.

The Catholic hierarchy never wanted an invasion to resolve the grave problem of the prolongation of a hard-line dictatorship, which supported the illegality of its leaders with the force of its weapons, which denied justice, and which violated human rights. Nonetheless, the invasion of our country by U.S. troops is a fait accomplit that did away with the repressive apparatus that brought so much sorrow and death to the peace-loving Panamanian society. The reaction of the Panamanian people, both in the capital and in the countryside, to the arrival of the U.S. troops on 20 December contrasts with that on 9 January 1964, when the lives of a group of patriotic Panamanian youths, with pure hearts and healthy ideals, were felled in a holocaust that clamored to the heavens for justice.

On that occasion the Catholic Church shared the pain of the Panamanian community and strongly expressed its disapproval of the injustice committed against defenseless and peaceful people. However, on this occasion, the general reaction of the citizens has been different. Regardless of the harm caused to our sovereignty, the unilateral action by the United States has not been considered by the vast majorities to be the abrupt action of a foreign army that has invaded our native soil, but rather a foreign force that came to expel the band of irresponsible paramilitary bands and the associated military men, who, in all truth, constituted an army of occupation in their own land. This is how the words of the prelate can be interpreted when he expressed the hypothesis that "history will tell whether this 'invasion' or military action, in addition to liberating us from oppression, has shown full respect for the inalienable rights of the Panamanian people and their territory, including those stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter treaties;

and whether the action has contributed effectively toward repairing the harm caused by the same military action."

Commentary Says U.S. Defending Its Own Interests

PA1401235490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 10A

["Counterpoint" column by Jose Cambra: "9 January 1964 and 20 December 1989"]

[Text] I joined the struggle against the military dictatorship in 1971 when Father Hector Gallego was murdered. I was in the 10th grade.

Throughout all those years, the Panamanian people witnessed the support the U.S. Government gave the regime even in the formation and training of repressive corps like the antiriot police and the G-2 that launched merciless attacks on our suffering people.

Recently a local television station showed scenes of a brutal attack by the Dobermans against a locale near Balboa Avenue. Unfortunately, the information the television viewers received was incomplete. That was the attack launched against the ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] in 1984, the year the United States supported the electoral fraud. The Panamanian people's human rights did not "interest" the U.S. Government at that time. I also wish to add that they were not the reason for the 20 December invasion either.

By 1987, Noriega had already proven to everyone that he did not represent stability, something very necessary for U.S. interests in the area. As a political science professor at a U.S. university said when interviewed on the Noriega issue: He was no longer of any use to the CIA or the State Department." [quotation marks as published] This decline in usefulness was the result of demonstration after demonstration that rocked the regime, from the COCINA [National Civic Coordinating Board] demonstrations in 1984; the FENASEP [National Federadion of Associations of Public Employees] demonstrations in early 1985—seven in all through 1988; the September and October demonstrations demanding justice in light of Dr Hugo Spadafora's murder; the labor union demonstrations against the three in one law in 1986; the 1986 FENASEP and teacher's demonstrations to protest the changes requested by the IMF and accepted by the Delvalle government and Noriega; to the sorry state of the Social Security Fund, etcetera.

The reason for 20 December is, therefore, quite clear—to replace a worn out piece, nothing more.

In 1964, the United States acted to defend its interests; on 20 December it did the same thing.

Panamanians think because the United States, not the Panamanians, are the ones reorganizing the new Public Force, is it not possible that around the corner we may find ourselves facing the Made in USA Dobermans with a different name? If you do not believe this, why is it that we already have a new G-2, the only difference being that it now has a new name, Public Security?

True Government Recognition Granted By People

PA1301041890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The True Recognition"]

[Text] Panama has experienced a succession of sorrows that tortured civilian and political life for over 20 years, filling with bitterness and grief a people that courageously withstood the unleashed abuse.

Under the agony imposed by the oppressing boot, few presidents from other areas repudiated and rejected the isthmian oppressors. On the contrary, receptions, decorations, and sweet proclamations were part of the party to sanction those who suffocated Panama with brutality and subservience. A collection of medals, awards, flags, and photographs decorate the living rooms of toppled militaryman Noriega, as proof of the acceptance and support granted to the military satrapy.

When on the occasion of weariness and rejection of the oppression we Panamanians expressed our civic protests throughout the fatherland, we were criticized in many countries. We were accused of carrying out our "Mercedes Benz protest" and our accusations were ridiculed.

Later, after the unfolding of events, a sordid plot of satanic practices surfaced in the testimonies of coupist militarymen who corroborated information on certain crimes, and the corruption of the Noriega regime.

The civic and political opposition struggle won the elections over the abuse, and the dictatorship refused to recognize the results, incorporating as a new rule of the all-powerful game: Never lose, yield, or be defeated.

The international community protested the luck of the Panamanian opposition and thousands of newspaper headlines gave details on the electoral fraud. However, there was not a single action to redirect the Panamanian course. The tyrant continued buoyant, menacing, offensive, and confident of his luxurious and flattering life.

Today, after U.S. liberation forces put an end to the aforementioned tyrannical path, some Latin American presidents refuse to recognize the new government—in a political and moral double standard—a behavior that neglects the fundamental issue: The true recognition is given by the Panamanian people, who in this isthmus applaud the triumphant march of the U.S. soldiers who gave us our freedom back.

There was diplomatic recognition to support tyrants such as Stroessner, Paraguay's executioner; or Papa Doc and Baby Duvalier, who through voodoo practices impoverished Haiti; and the opportunist Somoza; and Pinochet the Chilean beheader; and Fidel [Castro] a spoiled, decrepit liar. In street talk this means that it is not a formal diplomatic act that will determine the

legitimacy, duration, and validity of a government, which in the Panamanian case has 95 percent popular support.

Several foreign critics of the national government wished they enjoyed in their countries the support that the National Reconstruction Government enjoys in Panama.

Column Criticizes Peruvian Government's Position

PA2001143390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 90 p 1

["As Of Today" column]

[Text] No matter how hard one tries to find a sensible and rational explanation for the absurd position adopted by the representatives of the Peruvian Government, not even the greatest kindness could grant them as much as the benefit of the doubt. Neither the current nor the former elected presidents of Peru were concerned about the legitimacy of the dictatorship imposed on Panama in 1968. To the contrary, their relations with all the Panamanian generals were warmer than wisdom advised. As for the Peruvian military rulers who brought their country to ruin, their Panamanian counterparts adopted them as role models and as the inspiration for the "Panamanian revolution." Now, when a truly democratic government is ruling in Panama for the first time in 21 years, Alan Garcia and those who speak in his name have put relations between the two countries on the verge of rupture. As anyone who reviews the most elementary history books on the origin of Latin American nations could confirm, Peru obtained its independence from Spain because of the combined efforts of Generals San Martin and Bolivar, neither of whom was Peruvian. As far as memory can recall, since 1821, no Peruvian leader has ever expressed doubt about his credentials or those of the Peruvian state because it was the product of foreign intervention by an Argentine and a Venezuelan, with the assistance of other foreigners, some of whom were not even Latin Americans. Something other than the liberating intervention of the United States, which made possible the establishment of a democratically elected government in Panama, must be worrying Alan Garcia, and none of the natural hypotheses that come to mind are flattering.

Commentary Views 'Patriotic Cost' of Intervention

PA1601235990 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Jan 90 p 4

["Public Gathering" column by Donatilo Ballesteros]

[Text] We have said a lot about the moral and economic price we had to pay to free ourselves from the dictatorship. The city suffered great damage as a result of the looting of stores; there was sacking, along with robberies and deaths—because of the absence of a police force—and public records were burned or stolen from all government offices. In addition to this physical damage, the deaths of innocent victims have brought pain and suffering to their relatives and to the country. We have paid a high physical and collective price.

However, in my opinion, the patriotic cost is the highest price we have had to pay. No real Panamanian patriot wanted an intervention by a foreign army. However, citizens had their hands tied because they did not want to fall into the provocations against the United States that were carried out by the indignity battalions and CODEPADIs [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] under military protection. They seemed to be afraid of the scum that made up those groups. Those well-organized and preplanned provocations were aimed at achieving what took place. According to the deposed government, an intervention was necessary for them to leave power.

All the military, paramilitary, and civilian leaders who provoked the blondies before the intervention became cowards. They had already thought of the place where they would seek refuge, while paid fanatics were detained or killed trusting in leaders who were never at the vanguard and never fought, except to save themselves and their families. The U.S. action, which was forced by the corruption within the government, did not have the initial consent of real patriots.

Following the events and the regime's fall as a result of its crimes and the cowardliness of its leaders, there is a patriotic cost we must sadly pay. We must accept help that would have never been necessary had it not been for the stubbornness and evil of the civilian rascals and for the unlimited greed of the military. The U.S. presence cannot be viewed only as an immediate objective. It is true that the tyrant's fall—which I applaud and wanted, like all good Panamanians—made us feel happy and relieved. However, as Panamanians we cannot ignore the fact that the intervention, which was almost demanded by the dictatorship, is an affront by itself, and that we owe an explanation to our present and future youths.

Looking at our young girls and ladies, who show more than gratitude to the gringos, is worrisome. We should be grateful to them for liberating us; however, it is not correct to mistake the need to take advantage of the action to restore democracy with the need to accept the intervention as good. Therefore, we must take care of and defend what we have achieved, so never again will we have another dictatorship that will make another intervention necessary. We Panamanians must reject any intervention and stress that on this occasion the deposed government leaders imposed the intervention on us with their actions, therefore humiliating their fatherland.

Paper Calls for Prosecution of Noriega Ally

PA1801225490 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 5

[From the "Leaks and Tips" column]

[Text] Alberto Velasquez Morales, better known by his cronies as "Toty," is the person who closed down all the news media that told the truth to "pineapple face" Noriega. He profited from the good times of the regime and collected several salaries from the government, which he used to build a beach house at Corona Beach. Therefore, he must be tried for his crimes and his association with the narco-military man, now a common criminal, Manuel Antonio Noriega. Velasquez Morales, the number one enemy of journalists, wants to infiltrate the Endara government, supposedly as a registered journalist, but he does not meet this requirement. Gentlemen, be on the lookout.

Column Says 'Culprits' Must Not Go Unpunished

PA2101143190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Jan 90 p 1

["Public Gathering" column by Donatilo Ballesteros: "Let Us Not Overlook the Culprits"]

[Text] After the fall of the dictatorial regime, pronouncements on the country's future and its possibilities for recovery have been as dissimilar and varied as there are theorists. However, there is something on which all Panamanians agree and our position in this regard is unyielding and unhesitating. We have all reached the conclusion that the ruin into which the country has been submerged, the destruction of its economy, and the devastation of its businesses must not go unpunished and that those responsible for the national disaster cannot be overlooked.

It is necessary and even urgent to take a retrospective look at recent history to uncover many guilty persons who are now trying to go unnoticed, persons without whose decided and personal assistance the establishment of the fatal regime would not have been possible. We must make a careful list of men and names who, linked to the dictator's activities, acted in accord with military's whims and actively helped subjugate and dominate the rest of us—those who not only used their knowledge to commit fraud, but also helped to tyrannize the country, offering their advice and guidance to the military for the deliberate purpose of personally benefiting from undeserved privileges.

It is those culprits whom we cannot overlook because, in a democracy in which law must prevail and justice must shine, to let the many crimes committed against the treasury, Panamanians' health, and national security, honor, and public and private property go unpunished is neither advisable, nor the best example for present or future generations of youths. We owe them an explanation for the presence of a foreign army on national soil. The moral and patriotic cost of that military presence is being paid by all Panamanians and, thus, to be indifferent toward what has happened and to fail to point out past and present culprits is to act irresponsibly.

The citizens watch with dismay as individuals who were key pawns in the apparatus of the government's process seek refuge under the umbrella of the new government claiming new-found discontent with the overthrown tyrant, when, through their actions and cooperation, an undetermined number of irregularities were carried out, abuses were committed, innocent people were persecuted, and the Constitution and the country's laws were violated. To tolerate the mockery and sarcasm of those unscrupulous cynics and those culprits, who so far remain unpunished, is to encourage them to repeat such acts with the certainty of impunity.

Let us promise to cleanse public administration and set an example of rectification that restores justice, punishes the guilty, and guarantees security and comfort to all members of society. To achieve public peace, strengthen our institutions, and present an image of a decent new country, we must overlook neither the new nor the old culprits.

Commentary Demands 'Justice;' Criticizes 'Deals'

PA1601234190 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Station commentary: "Charity and Mercy, But With Justice"]

[Text] The treason parade, which brought about the downfall and disgrace of the eternal beast in a darkened room at the nunciature, began to roll when the grotesque mouth of Carlos Duque said Noriega had no option other than to surrender, and when a leader of the Dignity Battalions distanced himself from his commander on three occasions.

Linked by treason, the sewer rats began to come out one by one to head for the government headquarters in search of the water of the Jordan River with which to purify their sins and felonies. They were encouraged by the warm welcome and protection granted to them, gathered strength, and exploded in a burst of laughter to mock Civic Crusade sympathizers.

The men and women who struggled together against the homicidal ferocity of Noriega are being slapped in the face day after day. The cunning slap in the face is repeated every time they see the accomplices of Manuel Antonio Noriega freely walking the streets; every time the presidents or his ministers meet in public or private with the civilian followers of the toppled dictatorship.

This mockery goes on when an individual, who in complicity with Noriega and his subordinates stole an information medium, today continues to freely and triumphantly criticize the new democratic order, pretends to be naive, or tries to set guidelines for the new Republic while acting like a reborn critic.

The people are being mocked when secret deals to prevent the arrest of political and social criminals—for whom the people demand a trial and punishment—are not explained. When a president justifies the continuation of privileges and contracts with nonexistent legal

provisions, he is hurting the dignity of a people who might rebel against the new injustice and provoke a serious and unpredictable situation.

People want peace, order, and security; they want full democracy, absolute justice, and a pure and shining liberty. However, to achieve at such lofty levels in history, we must impose, not a blind and intolerant revenge, but strict and exemplary legal punishment on those who masterminded, were accomplices of, or committed so many crimes against the nation and the people.

We must once and for all define positions. We must fight the opportunistic attempts of those who want to protect criminals. Now is the time to point out those who are infected with the Noriegist putrefaction to prevent hypocritical and furtive attempts to ignore the tyranny's mockery.

We must end protectionism and influence once and for all. We want equal justice for all; justice for the humiliated nation. We want exemplary punishment for the criminals! Regardless of whether they are ministers or magistrates, presidents or soldiers, bureaucrats or reporters, civilians or opportunists, none of them should escape the due punishment of man's justice.

Yes, we hope that God will forgive them, but the fatherland must punish them. Mercy and charity, which are spiritual virtues, are one thing and the farce of confusing such virtues with accepting and protecting murderers and criminals is another. We will continue to insist on this.

Columnist Warns Against Reliance on U.S.

PA1601181290 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jan 90 p 10A

["Counterpoint" column by Azucena Fillo Haro: "Meaning of 20 December 1989"]

[Text] We must view the 20 December 1989 events objectively in the wake of the joy and celebrations on being free of the militarism that has caused so much mourning and suffering in Panama.

In the first place, I think think we should analyze how the United States viewed the problem of the Panamanian crisis. The United States had been increasingly alarmed at the extremely dangerous path General Manuel Antonio Noriega was following. The creation of the CODEPADI [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] and the Dignity Battalions, as well as the use of other terrorist groups like ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization], Shining Path, Sandinists, and Libyans were extremely dangerous to the security of U.S. strategic and hemispheric interests. Therefore, a speedy solution had to be found for the increasingly deteriorating situation in Panama, which was affecting the conflictive Cuba-Panama-Nicaragua triangle. The situation was becoming dangerous because of the results of a negative action. Allowing the deterioration of the U.S.-Panama conflict could, in the first place, have a negative effect on the Nicaraugan elections. In the seond place, it could create greater instability in sensitive areas like Guatemala and El Salvador.

The United States used its last available card after the lack of inertia shown by the inoperative OAS. The United States was aware of the high diplomatic cost. However, a successful military action could destroy the leftist plans on our continent. It was a strategic blow that had a far-reaching impact throughout the continent. In the first place, Cuba became even more isolated because Panama was the only route for much of the merchandise going to the island. Second, Daniel Ortega will have to be very careful not to repeat Noriegas's mistake of anulling the election results. In the third place, it resulted in dismantling the terrorist organization that Noriega had been developing to protect himself from any U.S. attack, and which was endangering the region's stability.

We have to be more realistic regarding reconstruction. The United States is not Santa Claus. We should also recall the U.S. propensity of being generous with European countries (like the Marshall Plan), with whom they maintain very close ties. However, this is not the case with Latin America, which is often forgotten by the powerful nation.

In our case, it is the duty of every Panamanian to work and sweat. Our only hope for prosperity lies in the sacrifice that each of us makes to place Panama on the same level as the continent's prosperous nations.

This is no time for paternalistic attitudes, nor should we expect to be given everything on a silver platter.

Editorial Views Special Relationship With U.S.

PA1601023290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Jan 90 pp 1A, 2A

[Editorial: "Panama-United States—A Special Relationship"]

[Text] Developments since 11 October 1968, when the dictatorship and tyranny began, must prompt Panamanians, and U.S. citizens as well, to reflect. The dramatic denouement of this profound crisis on 20 December compels us to analyze relations between the two countries over the past 150 years. In our judgment, and for reasons beyond the scope of this editorial, the U.S. Government bears a major responsibility for what Panamanians term "the monster," the creation of a military apparatus that became a criminal organization with international connections, the goal of which was to totally subjugate Panamanians to achieve their lethal objectives. What is more regrettable for our history is that many civilians cooperated with the tyranny, and the people will never forget that.

Despite the ebb and flow of relations between the two countries we insist that a special relationship exists

between Panama and the United States that must be guided with talent and profound knowledge for the benefit of our fatherland and our citizens. To believe that just by shouting "Yankee go home" we will be heading in the best direction is to ignore history, ignore our needs, ignore the factors that influence our welfare, and ignore the peace, tranquility, and progress for which the Panamanian people yearn. More than that, it would imply ignoring the hunger, mourning, and sorrow that anguishes our people, who demand an immediate solution. Panamanians must not define our fatherland's interests with emotions or the criteria of some Latin American countries. Let us just recall the recent act of irresponsibility at the OAS with regard to Panama's case.

If we examine the so-called anti-Americanism that some countries proclaim, repeat proclaim, deep down we will find it merely stems from emotions rooted in the past or the failure to understand why only two major and powerful nations emerged on this continent—the United States and Canada—while the rest lagged behind, to the extent that our people are part of the Third World. The truth is not pleasant to accept, but that is how it is.

The discovery of America gave rise to two flows of immigrants of widely different cultures—the Anglo-Saxon-French flow to north of the Rio Grande and the Spanish flow to south of Rio Grande. Those who went to the north were men, women, and children—entire families—with the intention of settling there permanently. Those who went to the south brought along armies and priests, but no women or children because they did not intend to settle there permanently. The flow of permanent settlers to South America was extremely slow. Both North and South America became independent of their European masters almost simultaneously—between 1780 and 1820. At the time, Panama's destiny was fully and completely entwined with that of the rest of the Latin American countries. It remained so until the middle of the past century, when an explosive development that took place far away set off the slow but sure process of separating Panama's destiny from that of the rest of Latin America. What was this distant development and who set it into motion? The Lord's plans, but also some trends toward agreement between Panama and the United States, the U.S. geopolitics launched by President McKinley, and—lastly—our unique geographical position had an influence.

In 1848, a carpenter named Marshal James Wilson found gold, a great deal of gold, in the California mountains. The U.S. people, in their rush to go to California during the second half of the last century, travelled to Panama, brought the dollar, opened U.S. banks, and built the first transcontinental railroad. Many U.S. citizens came to establish businesses and to reside permanently on the isthmus. Thus began the process of the transformation of Panama in which, while it became separated from its Latin American brothers, it strengthened its roots with the United States. Shortly afterward came the French canal, for a limited time, but the influence of the U.S. railroad had deep-seated consequences on our economy and culture.

Early in the century, the Colombian Senate, over which we Panamanians had absolutely no influence, rejected an agreement with the United States to build a transoceanic canal. We all know the story. President McKinley began the territorial expansion of the United States in the Spanish-American War, and Spain lost the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. The Panama Canal was a part of that geopolitical strategy. For almost accidental reasons, because of our geographic position and Colombia's rejection of the treaty, the special relations between Panama and the United States were strengthened even further. In all this, there was a consensus between Panamanians and Americans. All was not smooth sailing, but in between squabbles, embraces, and some pushing, Panama became independent and emerged as a nation, and with the construction of the canal, there began eras of prosperity never dreamed of by other Latin American countries, and the country achieved a level of well-being and progress that it would never have achieved without the canal or if it had remained tied to Colombia.

Panama achieved its true independence with the Treaty of 1936 when it ceased to be a protectorate and when the Americans ceased to have carte blanche to expand the canal at will. One true achievement was that of coming to the negotiation table as equals, without complexes or fear. Although once again all was not smooth sailing, the Panamanians advanced inch by inch, with firmness, determination, and dignity.

The same thing occurred with the Treaty of 1955. Then came the 1977 Treaty. The economic input from the canal and the U.S. Army, despite the critics, had a profound impact on the economy. Approximately 8,000 Panamanians work for the Panama Canal Commission. In addition, the Canal Commission spends many millions in Panama yearly. The U.S. Army employs 5,500 Panamanians and pays them $82 million a year in salaries. Its agencies spend $47 million a year in purchases in Panama and $60 million are spent by U.S. employees on personal purchases. There are no official figures on the cost of maintaining the U.S. Army in Panama, but it must be hundreds of millions a year. Is there any Panamanian who can dare to shout "Yankee, go home!" without producing a profound fiscal crisis in Panama and a recession in the economy? There are facts that oblige us to maintain a special relationship. There is no alternative.

The dark times in our history—from 11 October 1968 to 20 December 1989—were in part the result of unfortunate decisions by the U.S. Government, which, by favoring a clique of military criminals and some civilians, sacrificed its allies, the Panamanian people, its own children who consumed the terrible drug cocaine, and its civilians in Panama. In addition, the U.S. Government sacrificed the security of the Panama Canal. It also sacrificed the principles of decency and human rights in

favor of a despicable association with the tyrant Noriega, who assisted in the conflict between the United States and Cuba and Nicaragua.

This insolent marriage between the United States and the satrap Noriega had a very high moral and material cost for the United States. The cost, however, was even greater for Panamanians.

However, things went too far and in March 1988, the Panamanian people and the United States again found some points of agreement in the special relationship. The Panamanian people and the United States were united in full recognition that Noriega and his military and civilian henchmen were a gang of depraved crooks and drug traffickers who put the fatherland at the service of the international drug-trafficking mafias. The Panamanian people's confrontations against Noriega have been captured, and will be part of our history, thanks to the courageous cameramen from Channel 4 and Channel 13.

Today, we begin a new era of relations with the United States. Our destinies are again united by a special link. As soon as we—we as well as they—accept the reality of this fact, the better for them and for us. [This new relationship] will work out fully only within the highest spirit of unselfishness, cooperation, understanding, and respect. However, that special relationship will be not be beneficial for them nor for us if the [United States] does not respect the Panamanian peoples' will. It will not be beneficial either if Panamanians do not recognize the existence of such a special relationship, which we cannot change without causing serious harm to the fatherland. When facing the most powerful nation on earth, we cannot act based on old emotional anti-Yankee prejudice or inspired by complexes. Rivalry with Russia is over because the communist experiment, although it was properly inspired, failed in view of the reality of prosperity and dignity that comes with liberty. The concept of geopolitics is part of history. The important thing now is geo-economics—the art of economic progress amid international competition. Only those who joined the communists for internal political reasons boast about being communists. Only two examples remain in our hemisphere, and the two of them have bled their people dry. They will change their course, as has happened in Eastern Europe.

The special relationship to which we have referred does not undermine our sovereignty. On the contrary, it strengthens it. England and the United States kept a special relationship, to the pride of the British as well as the U.S. citizens. The special relationship between those two superpowers is also a result of circumstances that deal with destiny and mutual agreement among them. Things between England and the United States were not always rosy. Remember the bloody independence war, and the War of 1812. However, they overcame their disagreements and a very special relationship beneficial for the two countries appeared. This is part of the pride and the strength of England, as well as the United States.

The basic point for the fatherland is to recognize, we and the United States, that there is a special relationship between our two countries. To combat and to reject such relationship would be to deny reality and would destroy the bridges for liberty, democracy, and progress. Let us focus our efforts toward this path and Panama will attain peace, liberty, and progress.

All Sectors Urged To Support Democracy

PA1501163990 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: We Support Our Democracy]

[Text] On 7 May the Panamanian people were faced with the political option of dictatorship versus democracy and they courageously and in large numbers chose the option against the tyrant. So overwhelming was the voters' determination that the regime's preparations for an imminent electoral chicanery vanished from between the hands of the bailiffs of the tyranny.

In essence, that alternative has not changed much. Now the people are asking for order over anarchy, justice over abuse, the force of the law over force itself, and the desire to live with dignity over the deadly conspiracy of a political mafia that lurks in the shadows. In other words, it is now democracy versus chaos. Today, like yesterday, the people's decision must be overwhelming and exemplary.

And there is no valid reason—at least none good enough—why today we should not do as we did on 7 May and with the same authority, courage, firmness, and conviction, go forth and defend our democracy, represented by the government we chose in May, and in the same manner expose the Noriega gang's dirty linen.

To sit and wait for a handful of new officials and political leaders to straighten, in a few hours and without our help and cooperation, what the followers of the tyranny took 20 years to bend and twist would not only be contrary to our 7 May decision, but would also be extremely dangerous for this beginning democracy—which is only now taking its first steps and is still moving with great difficulty.

This government, against which we dealt a crushing and shameful blow to the uniformed Caesarism, needs the help of all the Panamanian people who love democracy. It does not only need the Arnulfists, the Christian democrats, and the liberals, but also the support, solidarity, and enthusiastic cooperation of all sectors, and all ideologies, of anyone who feels that our rights are still threatened by our sworn enemies. To build a democracy is not an easy task, to strengthen it is even more difficult. But we will do it because this is expected of us by a generation that will not forgive our weakness or hesitation at such a historic moment.

The monstrous repressive machine has barely been touched. Its massive propagandistic structure remains

untouched and under the control and orders of those who defend Noriega. The antidemocratic organization cadres are working hard to plan their opposition to the new regime, and for this they are using the large amounts of money that they obtained after completely and mercilessly looting the National Treasury. The constant telephone calls the media receives proves that there are still many hidden weapons, enough to equip a small army with good quality weapons. In a sense, the new government continues under the direct influence of this machine to the point that there are still ministers who have not been able to appoint people they can trust at their ministries. In conclusion, there are enough signs to make us believe that the infiltration occurring in the new Public Force is calculated and ill-intentioned.

On 20 December, the dictatorship's army, already eaten away by its own corruption, felt the weight of its formal dismantling at the hands of its former collaborators.

Things being the way they are, and with the knowledge that the U.S. troops will not remain within our borders forever, it is only logical to think that today, more than ever, the new government needs the solidarity and help of each and every Panamanian to make its consolidation possible and to obtain the stability it needs. And if we, the democrats, do not act now, the enemies of democracy will. As a matter of fact, they are already doing it in an underhanded manner because they cannot get accustomed to the idea of having lost what they had, and having lost it for good. Therefore, the struggle has not ended; it is just beginning and we are going to win it.

Column Criticizes New Public Force Appointments

PA1501022990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 10A

["Counterpoint" column by Sidney Sitton Ureta: "Is There A Change in Government in Panama?"]

[Text] After long years of press censorship imposed by those who illegally took power in our country, we are today resuming our humble contribution of political articles for the sole purpose of helping, through constructive criticism, to have a decent, just, and peaceful country.

The title of this article was extracted from the everyday thoughts and feelings of the Panamanian people: Has there really been a change in government in Panama?

The change in government must lead the country along the paths of democracy, social justice, and fairness. However this change in government also implies a commitment to the people to break with each and every tie that pushed us off the social, political, and economic cliff. In other words, the change cannot be a cosmetic one; it must be effective and material.

Thank God that in Panama we all know each other and know that there are persons who have been stained by the government led by Manuel Antonio Noriega. No soap will ever wash those stains off. When we heard the official announcement of the names of the new heads of the National Guard, we were surprised to see the name of one Eduardo Herrera. Herrera commanded the repressive forces on 10 July 1987, better known as "Black Friday," which resulted in many dead, wounded, tortured, and insulted.

Likewise, we question the appointment of majors like Cristobal Fundora, Jorge Correa, and Augusto Villalaz. One of Fundora's children is Noriega's godchild, and he was also a man Noriega trusted. Fundora bought expensive pieces of property in Chiriqui, something he could never afford on his salary. Correa is a well-known former prison director who released prisoners in exchange for large sums of money. Villalaz is former director of the Bayano Corporation and brother of former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz. He not only left the Bayano Corporation in bankruptcy, but also committed crimes that range from embezzelment to robbery.

Likewise, we are seeing that those persons with a long history of opposition are not being treated fairly despite their honesty, decency, and integrity.

Gentlemen of the executive branch, there is still time for you to correct your recent mistakes. You have the support of the vast majority of the Panamanian people and you have a national guard at your service and a media that is on your side. Therefore, act without fear and according to the feelings and wishes of the people. How can you expect the people to trust a national guard that includes people who should be removed? Why wait longer to bring justice to a people who have been waiting for it for 21 years?

We recently told current Attorney General Rogelio Cruz that we would keep close watch on the actions of our leaders and that we would not be flatterers of their faults and mistakes. This article bears the same message.

Commentary Calls for True Nationalism

PA1401233690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 10A

[Commentary by Milton Henriquez Sasso: "Re-Encountering Our Nationalism"]

[Text] The tyranny that has come to an end and that was led by the man whose name should be forgotten, had caused the greatest destruction known to Panama. Unfortunately, the destruction was not only materialistic, but the patriotic demagoguery of Hitler's and Satan's disciple also seriously affected the noble Panamanian nationalism.

The demagogue, who swore he would die fighting, irresponsibly provoked the military action. The U.S. military intervention is a national trauma. It is unpleasant for any people to find themselves helpless and to have to be liberated by a friendly nation from the clutches of tyranny. However, we realize today that after trying

other options, the use of force was the only way to remove the cancer that was killing us. We have lost a lot. Nearly 1,000 Panamanians were killed. Nearly 30 young Americans fertilized with their blood the soil of our national liberation and the country's economy is in a disastrous situation. However, we all feel that what was lost in a few days, would have been lost anyway had this dictatorial cancer lasted. The sacrifice was worthwhile. Still troubled and saddened by what was lost, we all look toward the future with optimism. We are experiencing a rebirth of good feelings within ourselves. We want to rebuild our country with all our strengths. We are able to do it. If there is something we have shown the world, and especially ourselves, over these past 2 years, it is that we can achieve all the things for which we as a people have strived. We have survived the blows dealt by the repression and the economic crisis. On 7 May, we defeated the tyrant's servants as we had never done before and we were able to get enough world support to have the dictator expelled. We have to thank God because he heard our prayers and he did not forget about us. We have to look at these last 2 years and months as the best lesson in civics that a people could be taught. We have experienced a necessary purge after years of demagogic intoxication. We have to look at the U.S. Armed Forces as the instrument of liberation used by almighty God and we have to rise from the economic and social prostration with faith in God and in ourselves.

I am proud of being a Panamanian. I thank the American people for their sacrifice and their solidarity because our brotherhood has been sealed with blood. I do not share the hypocritical positions of some people who preferred to see Panamanians subjected to a transnational narcodictatorship to being liberated by a friendly nation.

It is a mistake to define what we are based on and what we are not. For example, there are people who call themselves anticommunists, and with this reasoning they support fascist dictatorships. A true democrat opposes any dictatorship, regardless of its ideology. Nationalism must be understood the same way.

While we have the stale and childish pseudo-nationalism of some people, which consists of attacking everything the United States supports, we also have true nationalism, which exists in love for the fatherland and in a fight to achieve the highest degree of national welfare as a result of our own effort and healthy pride in our own traditions, without ruling out foreign contributions that can enrich us.

It would be a mistake to abandon our nearly century old struggle to reaffirm our national identity, just because the narcodictator tried to shield himself behind demagogic and insincere pseudo-nationalism.

I want to continue being a Panamanian, playing to the tune of my tamborito [folk song], waving my flag, and singing my national anthem. After showing our eternal appreciation to those who gave their lives for our freedom, we must return to our Panamanian traditions and we must sing with pride and patriotism: "We have finally achieved victory and we are happily all united..."

Column Praises Oscar Arias Letter to Panamanians

PA1401233490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 1A

[From the "As of Today" column]

[Text] Among the many opinions heard from abroad concerning the Panama situation, none has been more accurate, sensible, and understandable than the one expressed by Oscar Arias in his "Open Letter to the Panamanian people." With the moral authority granted him by his dual status as a Nobel Peace Prize winner and president of the only Latin American country where an army is constitutionally banned, Arias proposes to Panama the option of living without an armed force." Wise advice. Since 1948, when Costa Rica dissolved its army, it has become the country with the most political stability in a hemisphere convulsed by countless and various types of military uprisings, frequent coups d'etat, and atrocious dictatorships of all political tendencies. History teaches us that Latin American armies evolve into military aristocracies surrounded by aberrant privilege, pampered by weak governments manipulated at will by the current crop of generals and admirals. "It is time to pay tribute to the men who disarm their people so they can be free to work for development, and not for those who accumulate weapons and become insensitive to their fellow countrymen's hunger," President Arias continued to say. Panama does not want or need an army, navy, air force, generals, or colonels. We need democracy, justice, freedom and the best possible use of all our resources. We will only be able to achieve this if we eradicate the armed forces definitely. That is the responsibility of our generation; a generation that will be responsible for the reorganization of the basic institutions on which the birth of the new republic will be founded.

Columnist Criticizes Past, Present U.S. Actions

PA1201221690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 89 p 10A

[Article by Virgilio Arauz: "The January 1964 Action"]

[Text] At this moment in the life of the country we cannot ignore the January 1964 event. On that occasion, hundreds of students from the glorious National Institute marched on the so-called Canal Zone. Their objective was to force compliance with the Chiari-Kennedy agreement of 7 January 1963, which established that the Panamanian flag is to be hoisted at all public buildings where the U.S. flag is hoisted.

The students marched peacefully, but were provoked by Canal Zone residents, as the Panamanian foreign minister at that time, Dr Galileo Solis, stated in his note breaking relations with the United States. The note stated: There is no justification for the inhumane way

that first the Canal Zone police, and then the U.S. Armed Forces, attacked a group of no more than 50 male and female Panamanian students who peacefully tried to hoist the national flag in that strip of Panamanian territory." [quotation marks as published] (LOTERIA, April-May 1964, page 187)

The people who lived in the so-called Canal Zone, who were called Zonians, enjoyed countless privileges because of the control the United States has had over our main economic resource—our geographic position. Those privileges were the reason for the Zonian aggression on the Panamanian students who, by hoisting the Panamanian flag, were demanding acknowledgement that ours is a whole and sovereign territory. The U.S. Army quickly went into action and massacred people who were searching for adequate and feasible means to defend the injured fatherland.

Our fatherland has been injured again. Early on 20 December, our country was invaded by the same nation that in 1964 attacked us, leaving behind 22 dead and hundreds of wounded.

Today, the offense to the fatherland includes actions as humiliating as the occupation of the glorious National Institute buildings and the stationing of troops there with the alleged objective of removing the hated Gen Noriega from power. From our point of view, there is no justification for the invasion of one country by another. The 20th century has seen how many dictatorships, including the one born in 1968, were promoted and maintained by various U.S. governments.

As we see it, morality does not count in the decisions of U.S. governments. They always act based on their economic, political, and military objectives.

We agree with U.S attorney William Kunstler who has said: A country has invaded another country to arrest a chief of state; this had never happened in modern history. Kunstler added: Could anyone imagine the Phillipine Army attacking Hawaii to arrest Ferdinand Marcos, or Iran invading New York to capture the Shah? What would have been our response to such actions? (LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, 7 January 1990, page B-6).

Most of the Latin American governments had withdrawn their ambassadors to the Noriega regime prior to the invasion, but the United States, despite all its efforts, was unable to secure an OAS vote against him. Some countries of the area (and the rest of the world) have conditioned recognition of the Endara government that emerged following the invasion, to the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama City and the interior of the country. The people of the world think that what happened in Panama may happen in their countries and no one who loves his country can accept intervention by others in his country's affairs.

Because I am part of this nation and because I know of its struggles, I trust that soon we will realize our disgrace as a nation. Furthermore, we are already becoming aware. We are already realizing this because situations are being imposed upon us that are not in line with our struggles and our democratic aspirations, situations that include keeping agents of the past regime in their government posts or in military service, as well as people responsible for electoral crimes and other forms of corruption. The limitations of our demands are very closely related to the occupation of the country and to the U.S. intervention in our affairs.

We will take advantage of the commemoration of the 1964 action by the martyrs to point out the following: We want to alert the Panamanian people who have rejoiced over the fall of Noriega despite the circumstances, to the fact that this invasion—like the 1903 events—has taken place amid a difficult situation, and that if then there were men who did not believe in the permanence of what was being founded and who thought that the essential objective was to resolve immediate and personal problems, rather than to strengthen the spirit and consecrate the existence of a nationality, such people exist now "and just as we did in 1903, we now caution the people that the painful cost of seeing the tyrant overthrown without us participating at the key moment, which is what happened in 1903, will be the existence of an anemic, spiritless, weak, and faithless national government." (Eusebio A. Morales, as quoted by Diogenes de la Rosa in ENSAYOS VARIOS, pages 27, 28)

We are saying this because our struggle for the most important democratic right of a state—the struggle for national sovereignty—a struggle that has been carried out by several generations, including that of January 1964, continues. Our position is that if we do not enjoy this right, it will be very difficult (if not impossible) to enjoy other democratic rights, because they would be contingent on the situation of economic, political, and cultural dependency to which colonies and semicolonies are subjected by the imperialist powers.

Argentina

Official Comments on Group of Eight Meeting

PY2001222090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1823 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM)—Jose Luis Fernandez Valoni, Argentine under secretary of foreign relations, has said that the countries which make up the Group of Eight agreed to point out that the U.S. invasion of Panama "created the most serious crisis in the modern history of inter-American relations."

Regarding the current situation in Panama, Fernandez Valoni said that "the demand for recognition made by the government of Guillermo Endara is absurd because Endara himself said that his government cannot control internal security, guarantee justice, or call for elections because it does not have the full control of the state. [quotation marks as received]

Fernandez Valoni made these comments in response to questions about the resolutions of the Group of Eignt meeting held last week in Lima. The members of the group are Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Panama's membership has been suspended until its internal situation is normalized.

Asked whether a joint position was adopted on an eventual recognition of the Endara government, Fernandez Valoni said "if a country is occupied by a foreign power and has a government like the current one, we cannot fall into the dialectic trap of recognizing or not recognizing" its authority.

He added that in the face of this situation "first it is necessary to withdraw the troops and then to hold popular consultations to legitimize the government. Only after these steps are taken will it be possible to normalize Panama's institutional life and international relations."

Fernandez Valoni, who attended the meeting in Lima, also said: "We all agreed that it was important for Latin America to continue to defend the principles of asylum and diplomatic protection, the inviolability of diplomatic missions, and the immunity of diplomatic officials" established by the Vienna treaties, the Caracas Convention, and even by international practice.

He added: "We reached an agreement within this framework," but he explained that only general guidelines were established during the meeting of under secretaries and that the general guidelines will be submitted to the foreign ministries as a basis for future positions according to the evolution of the Panamanian situation.

The Colombian issue was also discussed during the meeting, but it was not the main topic. [passage omitted]

Chilean Ruling on Shipping Causes 'Surprise'

PY2001185090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—The Foreign Ministry today expressed "surprise" at the Chilean Government decision not to allow Argentine ships to transport general sea cargo that Chile imports from third countries.

In a single note to the press, the Foreign Ministry pointed out that this resolution of the Chilean Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications "does not take into consideration the reciprocity principle that allows the participation of foreign shipowners in this type of freight, with which Argentina commonly complies, except in the case of certain types of cargo."

The Foreign Ministry also pointed out that the Argentine Government believes "this decision does not contribute to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in maritime commercial transportation."

Menem To Get Tough on Police Corruption

PY1901160090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem said yesterday that he would "whip ass" wherever corruption in police ranks is verified.

Apologizing to reporters for his harsh language in response to stories of police corruption in San Vicente, Buenos Aires, Menem said he would not tolerate police corruption anywhere.

Police unrest continued for the fourth day in San Juan yesterday as officers remained holed up in their headquarters over wage demands, but calm in Santiago del Estero where officers went back on the beat after accepting the government's wage offer.

San Juan government authorities offered wage improvements ranging from 30 to 70 percent, which the 1,500-2,500 protesting officers considered "unsatisfactory."

The disgruntled officers are seeking a 300,000-austral starting paycheck, but say the government's offer only amounts to 220,000 for rookies.

San Juan also offered the police a 50,000-austral advance on January wages provided they "give up protest measures before Friday [19 January]," but the proposal fell on deaf ears.

The striking policemen, alleging irregularities, were also demanding Deputy Police Chief Carlos Pascual and the institution's top brass hand in their resignations.

San Juan Governor Carlos Gomez Centurion insisted that "these protest measures are results of a political conflict," and dismissed press reports of alleged acts of sabotage acts as "sheer lies."

Police reinforcements from Cordoba and Mendoza provinces were guarding public buildings in San Juan, while national border guards were patrolling the streets.

In Santiago del Estero, policemen went back to work after Governor Cesar Eusebio Iturre offered a 250,000-austral basic wage.

The officers had been seeking a starting salary of 350,000 australs, reform of the force regulations, getting the provincial police promotion board off the ground and better equipment.

Central Bank President Reportedly Replaced

PY2101213790 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Jan 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Presidential sources confirmed on 20 January that liberal economist Rodolfo Rossi has been relieved of his post as president of the Central Bank (BCRA). The same sources indicated that economist Enrique Folcini will be the BCRA's new president.

Rossi's replacement as BCRA president was confirmed yesterday, and it is believed that the decrees accepting Rossi's resignation and the naming of Folcini will be made known some time today or tomorrow. [passage omitted]

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 2028 GMT on 21 January transmits the following item: "Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (DYN)—Central Bank President Rodolfo Rossi today stressed that he 'will be at the Central Bank as usual tomorrow' and he denied that he had been relieved from his post as some media had reported."]

Seineldin, Rico Meeting With Various Leaders

PY2101203590 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Jan 90 p 17

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Former Army officers Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Aldo Rico, leaders of the military uprisings against the force's leadership during the Radical administration, are currently touring the country and speaking with "prominent political, social and business leaders," according to their self-styled spokesmen.

Ex-Colonel Seineldin arrived yesterday in San Miguel de Tucuman, where local journalists reported having seen him with leaders of the Justicialist and Independence Parties. A man named Julio Sanzone, who claims to be a "personal friend" of the controversial ultra-rightist leader, told the Tucuman daily La Gaceta that Seineldin "will make no statements to the press."

In turn, former Lieutenant-Colonel Rico will travel to Mendoza on Thursday [25 January] to "hold meetings with political and union leaders in that province." Sources close to the carapintada (smear-faced) Army faction said that Rico's strategy is to contact sectors within the Justicialist Party who are dissatisfied with the current government policy.

Meanwhile, Presidential Legal and Technical Secretary Raul Granillo Ocampo insisted once again in denying any plan on the part of the government for a new presidential pardon, but at the same time admitted that "this second stage of the reconciliation plan (disclosed by President Carlos Menem shortly after announcing the recently-granted pardons) will take place if the spiritual state of the population demands it."

In any interview broadcast yesterday by Radio Mitre, he underlined that "such a measure could depend on some external factors, like the evolution of the social and economic situation."

Press, Broadcasting Secretary Rachid Resigns

PY2001185690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0940 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has accepted Jorge Rachid's resignation as press and broadcasting secretary. Menem has also confirmed Mario Gavilan as trustee of Argentina Televisora Color (ATC).

More Suspects in Fontana Drug Case Arrested

PY1901214090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The Buenos Aires Federal Court on duty this morning confirmed the preventive detention of Hector Nicolas Domingo Guida, alias Rulo, and his mother, Maria Teresa Fernandez de Guida, with no possibility of bail, on charges of illegal possession of military weapons and drug trafficking. The chamber stated that investigations by Federal Lower Court Judge Miguel del Castillo and the evidence that he has supplied are sufficient to imply that the two detainees are guilty of the charges.

Among the evidence that the chamber considered is a statement by model (Marcela Tiravosky), who said that Jorge Fontana obtained drugs from someone named Rulo and his mother, a woman named Teresa, both at the house of the drug trafficker and at Fontana's house. The federal court also took into account a raid on the house of the detainees in which authorities confiscated 2 flasks full of cocaine, a high-precision scale, a book that included Cacho Fontana's phone number, and a military weapon with several rounds of ammunition.

Launch of Communications Satellite Set for 21 Jan

PY1901205790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1331 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Bariloche, 19 Jan (TELAM)—Norberto Wente, chairman of the Bariloche Radio Club, has reported to TELAM that the launch of the first Argentine communications satellite, the "Lusat-1," from the Kourou Base in French Guyana has been confirmed. The satellite should have been launched last 11 January, but a technical problem in the "Spot-2" transporter caused the postponement. The launching will thus take place at the

French Guyana space base at 2335 (Argentine time) tomorrow [0135 GMT on 21 January].

The launch of the "Lusat-1" is the result of an agreement signed between the Argentine AMSAT [expansion unknown] and the U.S. AMSAT for the launch of a 10-kilo satellite with an orbit 820 km above the earth.

The "Lusat-1" will make it possible for amateur radio operators around the world to communicate through the system of data package remittance known as "packet-radio." The satellite will be launched by an "Ariane-4" rocket that will be carrying U.S., French, and Japanese satellites to register atmospheric and photographic data, together with the "Lusat-1."

Bolivia

U.S. Position Expected To Be 'More Flexible'

PY1901234490 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpt] For the first time in the history of the struggle against drug trafficking, the United States has agreed to give the Bolivian idea of alternative development priority treatment during high-level negotiations on the issue.

Reliable sources from Government Palace and the Foreign Ministry have told EL DIARIO that the "Bush administration" has given formal notification of its decision to include the issue on the agenda.

Consequently, the matter will be thoroughly analyzed at the meeting that representatives from Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia will hold in Santa Cruz with U.S. representatives on 12-13 January, and at the presidential "summit" in Cartagena on 15 February.

For government authorities, the fact that the Bolivian strategy is receiving serious international consideration represents an important step for Bolivia. Intensive diplomatic work has been carried out in this regard over the past few years.

Observers consulted have expressed certain concerns over the presumed imposition of the traditional U.S. program, referring essentially to the use of force in countries which produce the raw material or where the cocaine is processed.

However, the top sources have stated that now the panorama is broader because the alternative development issue will be considered together with those pertaining to repression and prevention.

They added that the United States will apparently adopt a more flexible position toward the Andean countries. This position had been initially hardened with the deployment of large vessels off the Colombian coast and with the announcement of the installation of radar in the three countries involved." [quotation marks as published]

For Bolivia, the essential thing is the implementation of diversified plans in the Chapare and Chimore zones of nontraditional coca plantation. The economies of these regions are highly dependent on these activities. [passage omitted]

Communist Party Celebrates 40th Anniversary

PY1901122690 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Humberto Ramirez, first secretary of the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB], was the main speaker at yesterday's ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the participation of the Communist Party in Bolivian political life. The ceremony was attended by special guests and diplomatic representatives.

Humberto Ramirez talked about the march of communism in the world and the history of the PCB during the ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the party that took place at Miraflores Theater in La Paz.

Regarding changes in countries within the communist sphere of influence, particularly in Europe, Ramirez said it was not the occasion to analyze the situation in depth. He added, however, that the reasons for the changes are rooted in the continuous evolution of the socialist process which stimulated the introduction of necessary corrections, in some cases, with the unavoidable appearance of violence. Ramirez concluded by saying that the PCB was founded in accordance with the principles of communist doctrine of a time and circumstance, and above all, as an answer to the worker's struggle to achieve their class goals according to the basic philosophy of communist ideology. At one point Humberto Ramirez said:

[Begin Ramirez recording] A national and democratic state must fully exercise its sovereignty in its relations with all countries of the world, including the United States, on the bases of respect for our sovereignty and our laws, noninterference in our domestic affairs, and respect for our self-determination. [end recording]

National Peasant Workers Confederation Formed

PY2001023090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The National Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers [Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia—CNTCB] was founded yesterday. Its main leaders, Pedro Nacho and Oscar Cespedes, reported that representatives from all the interior departments of the country attended this national congress.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Nacho] ...was formed yesterday, with the acknowlegement of the minister and in the presence of representatives from all Bolivian departments.

[Reporter] Is Oscar Cespedes also a leader of this confederation?

[Cespedes] Yes, I am the president of the confederation's executive board. We held a national congress here in La Paz yesterday; therefore, we now have a new organization. We decided to organize ourselves because there is no genuine peasant organization that can tend to the needs of the peasant workers. The unanimous objective of all our colleagues is to serve the peasant class, help it make social gains, and defend things such as the right to bank credits, grow coca, and obtain the unity of all the national peasant workers. [end recording]

Radio Directorate To Evaluate Foreign Personnel

PY2001105390 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The General Telecommunications and Regional Reporting Directorate has determined that a radio station in Santa Cruz is broadcasting in Portuguese. Telecommunications Director Hector Guzman Hinojosa will take the appropriate measures in accordance with the law because the presence of foreigners in national radio stations is increasing and these stations are not respecting current regulations.

[Begin Guzman recording] The Telecommunications General Directorate has received various reports of foreigners working in national radio and television stations. To make an evaluation of the problem, we have sent a note to all stations asking them to send us a list of their personnel and their identity cards to verify the presence of foreigners speaking on national radios. [end recording]

Drug Officers Ordered Arrested for Corruption

PY2001011490 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The national prosecutor has ordered the director of the Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] to arrest all the FELCN officers who participated in an operation in Santa Cruz yesterday.

According to reports from Santa Cruz, a drug trafficker arrested yesterday was soon released by Major David Dias, the FELCN officer in charge of the operation. The report states that the drug trafficker, who escaped, paid the FELCN officers $100,000 to release him. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Seven Presidents Accept Inauguration Invitation

PY1901203790 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Summary] Brasilia is preparing for the installation of President-elect Collor de Mello. There are still 2 months before the ceremony, which will take place 14-16 March, and Brasilia hotels cannot accept any more guests. Seven presidents have already confirmed their attendance; the Argentine, Paraguayan, Uruguayan, Bolivian, Peruvian, Surinamese, and Portuguese presidents will attend the 15 March ceremony, while U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle will represent President Bush. Itamaraty has sent invitations that will be delivered by 130 Brazilian embassies abroad. Invited officials must confirm their attendance before 15 February.

Collor To Visit U.S., Japan, USSR, Europe

PY2001162390 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Report by Yara Selva from Brasilia]

[Text] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello will begin a nine-country tour on 24 January. The trip will begin with a visit to the United States. At 2359 on 24 January Collor de Mello will leave Rio de Janeiro on a direct flight to New York. He will then visit Washington from which he will depart for Tokyo, Japan on 27 January.

President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello will leave Tokyo for Moscow on 30 January, where he will stay until 1 February. He will arrive in Duesseldorf in the FRG on the same day and will then visit Bonn, Berlin, and Munich until 3 February. On 5 February he will be in Paris, from which he will leave for London on 7 February. On 8 February he will arrive in Lisbon. He will stay in Lisbon until 10 February, when he will leave for Madrid.

Collor de Mello will arrive back in Rio de Janeiro at 0710 on 12 February.

19 Deputies To Visit Soviet Union in Feb

PY1901154790 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Jan 90 p 9

[Text] Chamber of Deputies President Paes de Andrade, who has become famous for having disembarked from a presidential Boeing plane in Monbaca, his hometown in Ceara State, will travel to the Soviet Union aboard a Tupolev plane that will be sent to Brazil to pick him up. Paes de Andrade, who is also a PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] deputy for Ceara State, and 18 deputies—leaders of the main Brazilian parties and chairmen of the Chamber of Deputies technical commissions—will arrive in the Soviet Union at the beginning of February and will head for Moscow on 5 February. They have been invited by the Supreme Soviet Presidium, which represents the CPSU leadership. The deputies will return to Brazil on 14 February on the same Tupolev plane.

Government Failed To Pay $3 Billion in Interest

PY2001164790 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil from Brasilia]

[Text] Sergio Amaral, Finance Ministry secretary for foreign affairs, has reported that the Brazilian Government failed to pay $3 billion in interest to creditor banks last year.

Amaral noted that the government began to delay these payments in July 1989 and that it is also failed to pay $1.6 billion in remittances from profits abroad, capital repatriation, and other payments. According to Sergio Amaral, the government has been paying multilateral organizations such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank on the established dates.

Amaral denied that the country had suspended its payments to the Paris Club. He explained that interest payments had been rescheduled since 1983 and divided into two installments, one that comes due in January and another in June. The January payment was again divided to prevent an excessive reduction in the level of Brazil's international reserves.

Faction Seeks 'Restructuring' of Communist Party

PY1901234890 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jan 90 p A9

[Report by Joao Batista Natali]

[Text] The 70 members of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party] Central Committee who will meet in early February in Sao Paulo will discuss the proposal to call a congress this year to "restructure" the PCB, which would cease to be communist. The meeting would take the place of the PCB's 9th Congress and would seek to create a PCB that would be a "modern," but not necessarily Marxist, alternative for Brazilian leftists.

The proposal was submitted last week to the PCB national leadership meeting in Rio de Janeiro. Although it was not approved it stirred up enough controversy to cause the defeat of a 22-page document through which sectors of the PCB leadership sought to channel preliminary discussions to the congress in a less traumatic manner.

Jarbas Holanda was the spokesman for the proposal to "retructure" the PCB under a new model, thus interrupting a cycle started in 1922. Holanda represents a leading group that sought to radicalize the concept of a "new left" submitted to the Central Committee in November, shortly after the first round of presidential elections. At that time the PCB sought to take into account the fact that while sectors of the society do not support the PCB's organization, they do favor the same democratic project, as supported by Roberto Freire.

Holanda does not think it sufficient to support Gorbachev's perestroyka, to applaud the collapse of true socialism in East Europe, or to discuss maintaining Marxism as the basic doctrine for the party supporters. He said: "Now we need to restructure the party's organization."

Holanda and the group he represents dismiss the possibility of "an automatic and unconditional" alignment with the leftist front that grew out of Luis Inacio Lula da Silva's campaign during the presidential runoff. This sector of the PCB believes the PT [Workers Party] is making the unforgivable mistake of automatically leaning toward a "Third World" tendency.

The group proposes a "new model of capitalist development that does not concentrate income and is subject to the society's supervision in which—the proposal does not fit any orthodox pattern—"the labor sector may be a truly constructive opposition to capitalism." The group is against "statism" because it is linked with the interests of the middle class. The group is also against the "monoclassist" vision of a corporatism that exists inside and outside the PCB. They do not consider President-elect Fernando Collor a person who emerged from the leftist demonology, but rather a governor with whom "the consolidation and strengthening of democracy must be disputed."

Holanda said he is aware that he and his group can cause a schism, which would be "the consequence and not main objective of this process." From his point of view, "those who want to resist the renewal will fight", as is the case within the Communist Party in Italy and Hungary.

If the congress is called for this year, there will be no time to discuss "restructuring" with the leftist sectors that the PCB wishes to attract. Holanda has said "we have ceased to be attractive due to our narrow-mindedness on our internal organization," but the important thing "is to place the party on that path."

Colombia

Government Reaffirms No Recognition of Endara

PA2001020690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota—Government spokesmen confirmed a few minutes ago what was reported on Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN] on 18 January that Colombia will not return its ambassador to Panama while U.S. troops are in the country. Colombian Ambassador General Jaime Hernandez Lopez, retired, has been in Bogota since 22 December. He was recalled by the national government 2 days after the U.S. invasion.

The decision not to send the ambassador back to Panama while the troops remain, the government spokesman said, does not constitute a break in relations with Panama. On the contrary, the ambassador could return today or tomorrow, whenever the government decides; however, the Colombian Government wants the ambassador to return only when U.S. troops have departed.

As a way of legitimizing the Endara government, Colombia suggested holding a plebiscite in Panama. This is not a precondition for recognizing the new Panamanian Government, the official spokesman said; instead, it is simply the following: U.S. Government officials privately and unofficially asked that the Colombian Government recognize Endara. Colombia replied that to

aid Panama's stability, it suggested a plebiscite or referendum be held so the Panamanian people can legitimize their government.

Colombia believes that under the present circumstances President Endara should have no trouble winning the approval of his people. In fact, the official consulted by RCN added that Colombia's desire to help Panama is so spontaneous that when the Panamanians replied they had no money to organize the plebiscite, Colombia offered to head a Latin American group to finance the voting.

The official ended by saying that Colombia conditions the return of its ambassador to Panama on the departure of U.S. troops, but does not make the plebiscite a condition for recognizing the Endara government.

Officials React to Statement From Extraditables

PA1801212090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota—Colombian Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds and Attorney General Alfonso Gomez Mendez have adopted firm positions regarding the statement released by the extraditables in Medellin yesterday.

Minister Lemos expressed his satisfaction over the extraditables' response to the letter sent by the notables. Lemos, however, stated that the government is determined to make people respect the Constitution and the law, and he ruled out abolishing extradition as a mechanism to fight drug trafficking.

Attorney General Gomez stressed that the Colombian people cannot forget the crimes committed by organized criminal organizations and that those crimes cannot be concealed under a veil of forgiveness as some criminals want.

Gomez warned that governments cannot kneel down before any kind of blackmail from criminal organizations because that would be a betrayal of their basic legal principles.

Response From Presidency

PA1901171490 Paris AFP in Spanish 1658 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 19 Jan (AFP)—Upon proclaiming its victory over the drug-trafficking mafias, which have admitted their defeat, Colombian President Virgilio Barco's government announced today that it will continue to enforce the law and that it will continue to bring all criminals before justice.

In a statement delivered to AFP at 1630 GMT, the Colombian Presidency proclaimed the success of its firm policy to make people abide by the law and to fight the drug trafficking mafias.

The document, which is a response to a statement [words indistinct] the Extraditables and released [words indistinct], reiterates that the Armed Forces and the state security organizations will continue the struggle to dismantle all the narcoterrorist organizations.

Text of Presidency Response

PA1901181890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1735 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Presidency; date and place not given]

[Text] In response to reports disseminated by the media regarding the struggle against drug trafficking and terrorism, the Colombian president advises the Colombia people of the following:

1. The government's firm, coherent, and efficient policy to enforce the law has had significant results with regard to the control of drug trafficking and terrorist activities. That policy has created a new situation that has raised a number of expectations among the people.

2. The actions conducted by the Armed Forces, the National Police, and the Administrative Department of Security have been successful. They will continue to be implemented to complete the dismantling of groups of murderers and narcoterrorist organizations.

3. The national government and all Colombian authorities will continue to fulfill their duty to enforce the law and bring criminals before justice according to constitutional and legal procedures and the options offered by the law.

4. The statements by four former Colombian presidents, by the cardinal and archbishop of Colombia, and by the president of the Patriotic Union are patriotic actions intended to spare Colombians more suffering and pain. The government highly appreciates the meaning of those statements. Those statements represent the three Colombian parties and the Church.

5. The country has acted with calm, caution, realism, and responsibility. The Colombian people have not allowed themselves to be carried away by reckless expectations. The country must maintain that attitude.

6. Authorized media spokesmen have mentioned the many questions the Colombian people ask themselves concerning that situation, which only the future can convincingly clarify.

7. The country longs for the complete end to crimes, murders, and attacks against public officials, newsmen, political leaders, and men, women, and children. The country longs for the release of all those who have been abducted and the definitive suspension of drug-trafficking activities.

The government's policy and the enormous sacrifices courageously made by the Colombian people seek those objectives, among other things.

8. Now that the state's victory and the need to abide by the country's law are admitted, we must walk along the best path to ensure the final success of the government's policy, which has been supported by the Colombian people and the international community.

Extraditables Release 4th Hostage, Send Message

PA2001005990 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0019 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Report by Maribel Osorio in Medellin]

[Text] The Extraditables' fourth hostage, Luis Carlos Vargas, was released at noon today and went to an office located on the fifth floor of the Continental Building, where journalists tracked him down. Patricia Chavarria de Velasquez and her daughter, Dina Velasquez, had previously been released; and Roberto Mauricio Toro, the son of one of the Exito Stores' owners, was released on 18 January.

Luis Carlos Vargas' release was carried out in compliance with what the so-called group of Extraditables had stated. He is an Antioquia businessman, and he was left near the Continental Building, located in El Poblado sector. The businessman memorized a message that he has distributed among the media.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Where were you kept?

[Vargas] I do not know.

[Reporter] What is the text of the message?

[Vargas] They said that my release is a gesture of goodwill in reply to the public request issued by the Notables. I was always treated well. They told me I would be released provided I transmitted this message so the government and citizens would believe in the Extraditables' willingness to achieve peace. They want all these actions to be considered a positive reply to the appeal for wisdom. [end recording]

Army Comments on FARC Plan, Extraditables

PA2001015490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0018 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Report by Gloria Congote]

[Text] The Colombian Army, which has not commented on the Extaditables' proposals until now, said today that this would involve assuming a political position which is more related to President Barco. Instead, it referred to the discovery of documents that reportedly include a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] plan to seize power.

The FARC plan, published by the newspaper EL TIEMPO, outlines the following: First, launch a strategic plan that would end with the seizure of power in 1997. Second, create 38 additional fronts to include 32,000 guerrilla fighters. Third, the plan will be financed with 25 billion pesos obtained from kidnappings and blackmail. Fourth, attack businessmen, farmers, oil businessmen, gold businessmen, and emerald businessmen. Fifth, obtain 10,000 rifles, machine guns, rocket launchers, communication radios, 6 airplanes, 2 ships, and boats to support the plan. Sixth, build four airports and guerrilla landing sites. Seventh, turn the FARC general staff into a general war headquarters. Eight, paralyze the country's economic life, transportation, electric energy, and communications.

The Army's first reaction was that the FARC cannot possibly seize power by force and violence. Army Commander General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales said that the FARC is deceiving the people. He also referred to the Extraditables and said this is a political situation and the Armed Forces will continue their struggle against drug trafficking according to the orders issued by the government following Luis Carlos Galan's assassination.

Army Raids Properties of Cali Cartel Kingpin

PA2101025590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Colombian Army today for the first time raided properties owned by Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, whose extradition was requested by the U.S. Government 10 days ago. The military authorities raided two apartments and a luxurious residence in northern Bogota.

The operation had been scheduled for 1 week ago, but the raid on the apartments and a house located in northern Bogota, where Rodriguez used to stay when he visited the capital, was not carried out previously because the authorities had hoped to capture him.

In three safes, the authorities found jewels worth several million pesos and Rodriguez' last will and testament, which had been registered at the third notary's office in Cali.

In the luxurious residence, a valuable chessboard was also found. Rodriguez is regarded as an expert in this game. In addition, the authorities found car parts. Rodriguez enjoys car racing. He suffered an accident in this sport and was hospitalized in Bogota. Family albums in the residence contained messages of condolence from the manager and the president of the America soccer club.

Other papers included letters between Rodriguez and Rafael Forero Fetecua and several pictures showing Rodriguez with well-known local politicians. In addition, 99 $50 bills, checks worth 53 million pesos, an 8-million peso promissory note, and an American Express credit card were seized. The 13th Brigade also seized two late-model cars.

M-19's Carlos Pizarro To Meet With Barco

PA2101022990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jan (AFP)—Leftist guerrilla leader Carlos Pizarro, who is leading the M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrilla movement to legality, announced tonight that he will meet with Colombian President Virgilio Barco on 24 or 25 January.

"I will visit him in the Narino Palace in Bogota," Pizarro said. He added that he will be accompanied by some members of the M-19 high command. The M-19 is the first Colombian guerrilla group to move toward peace.

"We are going to talk of peace," Pizarro said.

Pizarro is in the Santo Domingo camp, a refuge granted to the M-19 by Barco's administration since April of last year.

Pizarro expressed optimism about reaching an agreement with the president at the meeting.

Pizarro also said that he will meet with Government Minister Carlos Lemos and Defense Minister General Oscar Botero. "Perhaps I will be able to meet with the leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties," he said.

Pizarro will be accompanied by Antonio Navarro Wolff, the second in command of the M-19, a guerrilla movement that appeared in the early 1970's.

The M-19 agreed to a peace plan proposed to the guerrillas by Barco. It hopes to become a new leftist political party and possibly to participate in the legislative elections this coming March.

During his meeting with Barco, Carlos Pizarro will reportedly inform the president of his desire to accept the pardon offered by the government.

* Criminal Intent Discovered in Avianca Explosion

90ET0071B Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 12-18 Dec 89 p 58

[Text]**Bombshell News**

The mystery lasted a week. Last Tuesday, 5 December, at a press conference that confirmed what the paper EL ESPECTADOR had already published as a scoop, Yesid Castano, the director of Civil Aviation, handed down the final verdict: the tragedy of HK-1803 was caused by an explosive device.

Castano's statement fell like a ton of bricks on the news conference. Although investigators had never ruled out the possibility that there had been a bomb on the plane, no one expected that the inquiries by national and foreign experts would bear fruit so soon. According to what Castano said at the news conference, there was an explosion below seats 15-E and 15-F, the ones closest to the fuel tanks, which shattered them and enabled gasoline to enter the passenger cabin; this in turn caused the big explosion 10 seconds later.

What Castano said seems to square with another piece of this puzzle that came to light the day after the accident, when it was learned of the odd behavior of two passengers. Indeed, on the afternoon of Sunday 26 November, the eve of the fatal flight, Messrs Julio Santodomingo and Alberto Prieto walked up to the company's counter at Bogota's Puente Aereo and paid cash for two tickets on Flight 203 to Cali the following day. First thing in the morning on Monday the 27th Prieto walked up to the counter and asked that he and Santodomingo, who showed up a few minutes later, be assigned the adjoining seats 15-E and 15-F. That was arranged, and the corresponding boarding passes were issued to them. Minutes before the flight took off, however, Santodomingo, in an overtly suspicious move, returned the boarding pass and did not get on the plane, whereas all indications are that Prieto did, inasmuch as one body was not claimed at the Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Traces of splinters that embedded themselves at a velocity of 20,000 feet a second in the emergency door next to the seats selected by these passengers, the remains of an explosive in the shoes of a passenger who was in the row immediately behind them, and the way in which HK-1803 broke up are the evidence on which investigators have based their assertion that a bomb was involved.

But if the foregoing helps to clear up the mystery in part, there are many loose ends that the investigators and the jury that will hear the case will have to tie up. On the one hand, the authorities will have to find as soon as possible the man who identified himself as Julio Santodomingo, because his testimony could shed light on several obscure points: First, why did he change his mind at the last minute and not board the plane; second, was the man who called himself Alberto Prieto, with whom he bought tickets the day before, indeed supposed to bring the package with the bomb on board, knowingly or not, and finally, why did Santodomingo, who was involved in planning this major bomb attack, decide to go back to the counter himself and say that he was canceling his trip, thus risking easy identification.

Another point that has not been fully clarified is who the mastermind is. Aside from a phone call to the radio network "Caracol" on the day of the disaster, when "the extraditables" supposedly claimed responsibility for it, there has so far been no other such claim or communique, or indeed any evidence that the call was authentic.

To further complicate this aspect, last Wednesday, in the wake of the car-bombing of DAS [Administrative Department of Security] facilities in Bogota, "the extraditables" sent a communique to various publications in which they admit their involvement in the murder of several persons, such as Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, the director of the Antioquia Police, Waldemar Franklin Quintero, and many others, but make no mention whatsoever of HK-1803. It does not seem to make much sense for people who do not mind admitting to the most atrocious crimes to conceal one more. On other

occasions, of course, they have not accepted the blame when investigations have pointed to them as the culprits.

For now we can only wait for the investigation to conclude. If we take into account that when the Pan Am flight was destroyed over Scotland last December the official investigators took 7 months to announce officially that it was a bomb, it is indeed surprising how fast the verdict came in the case of the Avianca 727. Parts of the aircraft and the black box that contains the flight information have yet to be analyzed, and above all Mr "Santodomingo" has yet to be captured before this tragic incident can be brought to a close.

12 Persons Killed in Gomez Plata, Antioquia

PA2101144090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1235 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Report by Luis Guillermo Morales from Medellin, Antioquia Department]

[Text] A total of 12 people, all bearing identity cards from Bello Municipality, were killed on a Gomez Plata Municipality farm, 98 km north of Medellin. It was reported that this took place in La Caldera Path's Villa Angelica Farm where 10 men and 2 women were shot to death by a group that has not yet been identified.

Spokesmen for the Gomez Plata Mayor's Office identified the dead as Jorge Osorio, Maria Isabel Calabid Molina, Juan Carlos Espinal Monsalve, Juan Enrique Munoz Montaya, Edwin Rojas Calderon, John Jairo Salazar Ruiz, Carlos Hernando Toro Ramirez, Luis Hernando Garcia, Fernain de Jesus Chaverra, Jairo Alberto Mendoza Gil, Fabio Humberto Giraldo Ramirez, and Egidio de Jesus Ramirez Munoz.

It was announced that the necropsies and identification by their relatives will be conducted this morning at the Gomez Plata Hospital where the bodies are housed and the relatives are waiting.

Spokesmen for the Gomez Plata Mayor's Office said that details and possible reasons for this multiple crime are not yet known.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Police killed three kidnappers and captured another during an operation last night in Belen neighorhood, in western Medellin. Citizen Pedro Uribe Santamaria, a Banco Cafetero employee who had been kidnapped on 12 January, was freed. It was reported that a $1-million ransom was initially requested, but the kidnapped man himself said his captors had told him over the past few days he would be freed next week with a message for the government from The Extraditables.

The authorities' operation took place at a residence at the intersection of 82d Avenue and 37th Street where 20-year-old Andres Felipe Saldarriaga Echeverri, 34-year-old Dorian Avalos Ordonez, and an identified person about 34 years old, were killed. The wife of one of the kidnappers, identified as Lucy Quinones, was captured and taken to the Police F-2 Department.

Finally, two Metropolitan Police sublieutenants were killed last night by unidentified individuals at the intersection of 52d Avenue and 16th Street, near the Enrique Olaya Herrera Airport in Medellin. The men in uniform, who belonged to the Metropolitan Police Specialized Services Department, were identified as 23-year-old Victor Hugo Valero Becerra and 26-year-old Jose Antonio Villegas del Rio, who were shot to death by two men traveling on foot who fled aboard a bus, witnesses reported.

Reason Not Known

PA2201025390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Doris Jeanette Orrego]

[Text] Twelve people have been killed at the Villa Angelica farm, Caldera, Gomez Plata municipality, Antioquia Department.

No one has been able to explain who killed 10 young tourists and 2 peasants or why they were massacred in an area that had up to this time been regarded as very quiet.

At approximately 1600, when the massacre occurred, one of the second-floor rooms was occupied by seven people who were eating a lavish dinner with music. These people were bound hand and foot and then shot to death by a group of assassins who broke into the place in a still-unknown way. Five other men near a swimming pool were also tied up by the criminals and shot to death in cold blood. Ten of the victims lived in Bello, while brothers Egidio and Maria Lovia Martinez, who were from Gomez Plata, were employees of the farm.

Neighbors reported the killing to the municipal and police authorities, who took the bodies to the Gomez Plata hospital where four doctors performed the autopsies.

[Begin recording] [Orrego] Do you know anything about the perpetrators of this crime?

[Major Cesar Augusto Perez] No. All we know is the report we received yesterday saying the victims had been in this place since 16 January. [end recording]

Relatives have been arriving throughout the day to identify and claim the bodies.

No explanation has been given on how the massacre occurred. Five other people who were at the farm at the time of the massacre have been reported missing.

ELN Attacks North Arauca Pipeline 18 Jan

PA2101020390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The so-called National Liberation Army [ELN] has claimed responsibility for another attack on the

Cano-Limon-Covenas pipeline. They blew up the pipeline at a site near the 100-km marker between the northern municipalities of Sarabeya and Banadia of the Arauca administrative division. The attack took place early this morning, spilling 5 million barrels of crude oil and causing 42 million pesos in losses. Oil pumping was suspended to repair the pipeline and ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] has reported that pumping will probably be resumed next weekend.

This new dynamite attack is the 112th against the pipeline since it was inaugurated and the second one this year. The first attack took place on 5 January but did not damage the pipeline seriously.

Suspected in Cucuta Bombing

PA2201035590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Jose David Rodriguez]

[Text] Authorities have reported that in Los Patios, near Cucuta, a car was set on fire and an arms cache was blown up by guerrillas who thought they had been exposed.

A bomb, made of 20-25 kg of explosives, went off at 0640 today in Los Patios, a municipality 2 kms from Cucuta, after two suspects fled an intelligence operation being carried out by the National Police. A four-wheel-drive Toyota allegedly was set on fire by its owners at 0600. The men then escaped to a house where they are believed to have detonated the bomb.

Material alluding to the National Liberation Army [ELN] was scattered among the debris. The authorities, however, have not confirmed that the individuals belong to this subversive organization. One person suffered a broken jaw and collar bone from the blast. Authorities seized ammunition for various weapons, as well as pistols, submachineguns, carbines, Army and Police uniforms, Venezuelan license plates, containers for manufacturing bombs, and several lengths of fuse. Within the past few hours, the police have detained two suspects.